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BRISTOL BOROUGH

1681–1853.

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HISTORICAL SKETCHES

OF

BRISTOL BOROUGH,

IN THE COUNTY OF BUCKS, ANCIENTLY KNOWN AS

"BUCKINGHAM:"

BEING THE

SECOND CHARTERED BOROUGH

IN

PENNSYLVANIA;

COMMENCING WITH ITS

Colonial Settlement, in 1681,

AND CLOSING WITH THE YEAR

1853.

BY WILLIAM BACHE.

BRISTOL, PA.
1853.

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WM. BACHE, PRINTER.

PREFACE.

THE appearance in public of this little narrative of important and interesting events in the foundation and subsequent history of the ancient corporation of Bristol Borough, is in some degree due to the solicitation of influential citizens. It had its origination in the *personal* desire of the compiler to acquaint himself with a knowledge of the by-gone public affairs of the town.

The compiler feels justified in saying, that his researches have been carefully and amply made, and close attention has been bestowed in the revision of his own labours, especially in the securing of accuracy in dates and names; and it is believed to be as free from error or misguidance as books of like character may rightfully lay claim to. No event recorded has been considered of too slight importance to be worthy of his searching for and recording all its particularities, with the historical authorities and references noted.

With the fixed purpose of occupying as little space as possible, brevity of words has been preferred to a more studied style of language, not only by the compiler, but also on the part of his contributors.

Should this little harvesting of local events prove an acceptable offering to the people, as a work of utility, the efforts bestowed in its gathering will not have been misapplied, which in itself will afford feelings of gratification to

THE COMPILER.

HISTORY OF BRISTOL.

Period First.—[1681.]

"BUCKINGHAM" PIONEERS.

"I trace thy tale
To the dim point where records fail."

Among the earliest projects of our colonial predecessors who settled on the lands bordering upon the Delaware river, was the selection of the more desirable sites for the erection of villages. One of these, which claimed their first attention, was that upon the western bank of the Delaware, north of Neshaminey creek. An account of the first provincial settlement, original design, and subsequent progress of that ancient corporation, then called the town of Buckingham, in the district of country then bearing the same name, (now in the county of Bucks,) will be found to be briefly compiled in the following pages.

The site upon which the Borough of Bristol is erected, is a part of a tract of land granted under warrant of Sir Edmond Andros, Provincial Governor of New York, to Samuel Clift, in March, 1681: being about the same period with the date of the Proprietory Charter of Charles II. to the Founder of Pennsylvania (4th of March, 1681,); and about four months prior to the conditions and agreements entered into between William Penn and the "adventurers and purchasers in the same province," (July, 1681.) The brief recital of this grant of Gov. Andros is, for "a large tract of land lying on the Delaware river, at the

mouth of Mill creek, and extending up said river and creek," &c.,—under which title the warrantee seated and improved the land.

By deed dated 9th mo., 23d, 1682, Samuel Clift devises this tract in fee simple to Joseph English.

By deed dated 12th mo., 20th, 1695, part of the above, and including that now embraced within the corporate limits, (extending from the mouth of Mill creek, up the river Delaware,) and containing one-half of a survey of twenty-two acres, was conveyed to Anthony Burton and Thomas Brock;—and by deed from Peter White and Elizabeth his wife, dated 1st mo., 16th, 1696, the other moiety of the above twenty-two acres was granted to the said Burton and Brock.

By deed of partition, dated 4th mo., 8th, 1696, the above was divided, in severalty, between Anthony Burton and Thomas Brock.

Under this partition deed, the town plot appears to have been originally staked out into streets and building lots, by the aforementioned Burton, Brock, and White, the latter of whom either retained or purchased the north-western limits, or that portion now intersected by the Delaware Division Pa. Canal.

The beautiful and luxuriant sections of country on either side of the lovely Delaware, everywhere offered inviting inducements to the early settlers in selecting places and rearing their intended homesteads. Their dwellings were chiefly built of heavy forest timber, known as "log cabins." At the lapse of about the first fifteen years from its civil settlement, lands in the south-eastern portion of that section of country known as Buckingham, skirting the Delaware, even before Philadelphia was designed and laid out, were eagerly taken up and settled upon, the patentees deriving their titles from Gov. Andros. (See Watson's Annals, i. pp. 10, 11.)—And, indeed, strong expectations had been entertained, that the city of Philadelphia would have been founded at "Buckingham," or Bristol; but their cherished hopes were overruled, mainly in consequence of the river navigation being more favorable to heavy shipping further down. There were some who even anticipated the erection of that city at Pennsbury, the favored homestead of the Proprietor;

others again at Byberry, then distinctly known as a "Friends" settlement, which, indeed, appears for a time to have been once called "Old Philadelphia."

About 1697, the "county of Buckingham" began to wear an aspect more in consonance with the desires, enjoyments, and customs of refined life; and was daily becoming more closely settled with colonists, chiefly members of the Society of Friends, and of the English Episcopal Church. (Col. Rec. i. p. 480.)—Says Watson, (An. ii. p. 75,) "This county had its first settlers located nearest to the neighborhood of Bristol and Pennsbury. They were nearly all of them of the Society of Friends; among them, James Harrison and Phineas Pemberton were most influential and conspicuous." "The Indians were round about in small settlements, in almost every direction. Some long after dwelt on the 'Indian Field,' near Penn's estate."

In the lapse of the first quarter century, an Act was passed for erecting in the Borough "a more commodious prison and court-house," passed 7th of March, 1745, and confirmed by Lords Justices Oct, 29th, 1748.* In it were held the Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and of Common Pleas. At

* The first court-house and prison erected in this county, was, by an Act passed in 1705, authorized to be sold, and provision made for building a new court house and prison. And, Feb. 17, 1722, "And another house of correction or work-house shall be built in Bristol, at the charge of the county of Bucks." This appears to have been a small house of correction and a whipping-post, which were removed in 1724-or-5. 1720—"The Sheriff and Clerks of the courts for the time being, if not residents of the said borough, shall appoint and constitute sufficient deputies, who shall from time to time reside or constantly attend in the said town of Bristol, to perform the duties of their respective offices." March 20th, 1724, (the same now to be removed from Bristol,) an Act was passed, entitled "to enable Jeremiah Langhorne, Wm. Biles, Joseph Kirkbride, Thomas Watson, M. D., and Abraham Chapman, to build a new court-house and prison in Bucks county," by which the same were erected at Newtown. Again, March 7th, 1745, an Act "for erecting a house of correction and work-house in the Borough of Bristol" was passed, in connexion with certain corporation privileges of the borough. In the year 1810 the seat of justice for Bucks county was removed to Doylestown; very creditable buildings, consisting of a substantial court-house, offices and jail, were erected on the same ground plot, at convenient distances; at which place the county courts have been since held, and prison punishments inflicted.

which place also, for a long period the Borough and County elections were held.* It is said, that the first court held in Pennsylvania was in this county; but however reliable this may be as an item of published history, we find first among our researches, that the Governor and Council exercised the judicial prerogative in both civil and criminal trials in 1683, the first upon record being at Philadelphia.† It is also said (in Watson,

* In 1785 Bucks county contained by Act of Assembly but two election districts: one at Abraham Keichline's, and the other at Newtown; and in 1798 the county was divided into five election districts, by which, elections were again held in Bristol, at the old court house, in Cedar street, above Market, which building has since been altered and converted into a private dwelling.

† In one of which a Margaret Matson is tried for witchcraft; and as it is a curious affair, we cannot resist giving it a place here.

"At a Councill held at Philadelphia ye 27th of ye 12th mo. 1683. —Present, Wm. Penn, Propor and Govr.; James Harrison, Wm. Biles, Lasse Cock, Wm. Haigue, Chris. Taylor, Wm. Clayton, Tho. Holmes.—The Grand Jury made their returne, and found the bill.—Margarit Matson's Indictmt was read, and she pleads not guilty, and will be tryed by the Countrey.—The Petty Jury Impanneld.—Henry Drystreet attested, Saith he was tould 20 years agoe, that the prisoner at the Barr was a Witch, & that severall Cowes were bewitcht by her; also, that James Saunderling's mother tould him that she bewitcht her cow, but afterwards said it was a mistake, and that her Cow should doe well againe, for it was not her Cow but an Other Persons that should dye.—Charles Ashcom attested, saith that Anthony's Wife being asked why she sould her Cattle; was because her mother had Bewitcht them, having taken the Witchcraft *of* of Hendrick's Cattle, and put it on their Oxon; She myght Keep but noe Other Cattle, and also that one night the Daughter of ye Prisoner called him up hastely, and when he came she sayd there was a great Light but Just before, and an Old woman with a Knife in her hand at ye Bedd's feet, and therefore shee cryed out and desired Jno. Symcock to take away his Calves, or Else she would send them to Hell.—Annakey Coolin attested, saith her husband tooke the Heart of a Calfe that Dyed, as they thought, by Witchcraft, and Boyled it, whereupon the Prisoner at ye Barr came in and asked them what they were doing; they said boyling of flesh; she said they had better they had Boyled the Bones, with severall other unseemly Expressions.—Magarit Mattson saith that she Vallues not Drystreet's Evidence; but if Sanderlin's mother had come, she would have answered her; also denyeth Charles Ashcom's Attestation at her Soul, and saith where is my Daughter; let her come and say to. Annakey Cooling's attestation concerning the Gees, she denyeth, saying she was never out of her Conoo, and also that she

ii. p. 98,) that the oldest record to be found in the State is now deposited in one of the offices at Doylestown, being a register of "ear-marks for sheep and cattle," made about 1681. "The next record," (Orphans' Court, No. 1,) "bears date 4th day, 1st mo., 1693,* and was held at the private dwelling of Gilbert Wheeler; present, the Gov. William Penn, with Justices James Harrison, Jonathan Otter, Wm. Yardley, Wm. Beaks, and Thomas Fitzwater; Phineas Pemberton, Clerk."—(How familiar with our people are these old colonial names!)—"The next court was held at Pennsbury; the next again at Gilbert Wheeler's, 7th or 8th mo. 1684." (Ibid.)

The old court-house and prison of 1705 was built in Cedar street, between Market and Mulberry, and nearly opposite to the present Mason's Hall. It was a two story brick edifice; court room up-stairs from an out-door entrance, and prison below; and a stationary whipping-post attached to the outer walls. In after years the elections were long held there; and it was also converted into a school-house and used as such for some years. Finally, it was sold, with the lot, in 1834, William Kinsey, Esq., our present Burgess, being the purchaser.

never said any such things Concerning the Calves' heart. The prisoner denyeth all things, and saith that ye Wittnesses speake only by hear say. After wch ye Govr gave the Jury their Charge concerning ye Prisoner at ye Barr. The Jury went forth, and upon their Returne Brought her in Guilty of haveing the Comon fame of a Witch, but not Guilty in manner and forme as Shee Stands Indicted. Neels Mattson and Antho. Neelson Enters into a Recognizance of fifty pounds apiece, for the good behavior of Margarit Matson for six months."

* Watson is not here *strictly* truthful. In early times of the colony a registry of persons settling in the several counties were kept. An instance follows: "Wm. Buckman of the Parish of Billinghurst, in the county of Sussex, Carpenter.—Arrived in Delaware river in the Welcome, the Master Robert Greenway, with his wife Sarah, in the 8th mo. 1682; children, Sarah, Mary." See Record at Doylestown, kept by Phineas Pemberton, Clerk.

The reader will bear in mind, that prior to 1752, March was dated as the 1st month; consequently this event was in the 11th month, which would account for the fact that when the vessel landed at Chester, the emigrants went ashore in the evening, and walked back in the morning upon the ice.

It is said by Henry Tomlinson, one of our ancient citizens, that he well remembers the locality of the building where the fairs were originally held. It stood in Mill street, opposite to Cedar. The second one built stood near the intersection of Cedar and Market streets. The items of cost for its erection are reported (Boro. Rec. Sept. 4, 1819,) to be $285 03. In 1832 it became necessary to remove it, and the materials and lot were sold; as was also the old hay-scales.

The chalybeate springs at Bath, in Bristol, which first obtained celebrity in 1722, attracted large numbers to this place as a summer resort, and, it has been said, even some from Europe have visited them especially on account of their sanatory reputation abroad; while many have derived benefit from their use both medicinally and as a bath. For some years, the Bath property was almost altogether neglected, and the spacious mansion house and outbuildings were suffered to become so dilapidated as to render this valuable property almost untenantable. Latterly, however, this estate was purchased by Mr. Chas. Hepburn, who has thoroughly repaired and enlarged the establishment, and with unsparing liberality improved and beautified the grounds. The old mineral springs, have been thoroughly cleansed and fitted for their respective uses, and a chemical analyses of the waters carefully made and noted. The establishment is now popularly sustained as a summer house, both by those who visit it for their health, and others for pleasure and pastime.

An anecdote is related by Watson, which may be here noticed.—He tells us, that "when James Harrison and his son-in-law Phineas Pemberton first entered Philadelphia on horseback, from Choptank in Maryland," (Nov. 1682,) "they could not procure entertainment for their horses;"—they—"spancelled them,"—and—"turned them out in the woods!" Having sought for them the next morning, and for two days, in vain, they gave up the search for the time, and were obliged to take a boat in order to proceed on their way up to Buckingham, the place of their destination. (i. p. 47.)

The success of the Pennsylvania colonial enterprise, which was equal to the most sanguine hopes of its illustrious founder and law-giver; the "unbroken chain of friendship" and confi-

dence which was maintained, "ever bright and untarnished," between the colonists and the Indians, under the system of mutual concessions* adopted by William Penn, operating more favorably than the unwise, if not unjust policy, of the neighboring colonies, especially that of Lord Baltimore, afforded perhaps feelings of greater satisfaction and security from assault, on the part of settlers here. And on this account, it may be fairly surmised, it was in some measure, that lands in this immediate neighborhood, comprised within the tract then called Buckingham, commanded their first attention. Besides, the supposition appears reasonable, that many, especially those embued with the religious sentiments of the Society of Friends, should have cheished an inward desire to locate themselves in a near proximity to the favorite spot chosen as the manor of their good and great patriarch and founder.

Fading remembrances of Pennsbury! Now quiet, changed and neglected; where once the forest sires of a noble race oft had met in friendly covenant, with the solemnity of worship and the joyfulness of dancing, uniting in council and in sacred compact with the white faces who have supplanted them, I cannot pass unnoticed thy almost renowned retreat.

The old mansion-house, which was by some called "Penn's Palace," in those early days, was built in 1682-3, at a cost of £7,000. A large portion of the materials, especially for the ornamental parts, were sent from England by William Penn.—The letters of instruction to his friends having charge of the buildings and in laying out and improving the grounds, bespeak the deep interest he felt in having everything about his manor done in close conformity with his taste and wishes. But, alas, few and troubled were the days he was permitted there to spend. Not until after an almost compulsory absence of fifteen years in England, did he reside at Pennsbury, where he remained less

* See the Articles of agreement, made in Council, 23d of 2d mo. 1701, first with "Connoodaghtoh, king of the Sasquehannah Minquays or Conestoga Indians, Wopaththa, king of the Shawanese, Weewhinjough, Chief of the Ganawese," &c., and with other tribes, in vol. i. ii. and iii. of the Colonial Records.

than two years (in 1700–1,); during which period he was much absent at Philadelphia and New Castle with his Council.

All that has escaped the decay of years and the ever shaping hand of man, to mark the original aspect of the spot, is that familiarly remembered as the "malt house." At Pennsbury, in 1701, on the eve of the second departure of the Proprietor for England, (a memorable departure, for he was never again enabled to return,) Governor Penn, with a number of his Council, held one of the largest Indian councils that had been convened in the Province; which we find recorded as having closed with "music, worship, and dancing." But now, how changed!—And these *Lenni* (original) *Lenape* (people), where are they?—We are told that the last of the "Delawares,"* (as *we* have named them,) went off from Buckingham, in a body, in the year 1775.

> "Forced from the land that gave them birth,
> They dwindle from the face of earth."

Yes, they have disappeared,—and Pennsbury too is almost forgotten. None have placed a monumental stone to record its name and remembrance; and while at later times our beautiful Delaware is becoming studded with its young and rising towns, none have seconded the early wished for hopes, which had marked out Pennsbury among the first.

* Tamanend, their king or chief, who was an Indian much beloved and confided in by William Penn, for his integrity and many virtues, was buried near a spring, south of what is now Prospect Hill School, in Buckingham township, about four miles from Doylestown. He died in a cabin in the woods, and was buried by the kindness of a neighbor. His grave was for many years marked by a pile of stones thrown there to keep animals from disinterring the body.—*See Heckewelder; see Ind. Hist., ch.* xv. *p.* 183.

Period Second.—[1697.]

THE "MARKET TOWN."

"Where homes of humble form and structure rude,
Raise sweet society in solitude."

So great had been the influx of population into our locality, that as early as June, 1697, a number of the more active and far seeing settlers conceived the local advantages afforded in the plot of land on which the Borough of Bristol now stands, for the erection of what they significantly termed "*a market town;*" (Col. Rec. i. p. 480,)—and on the impulse of what appeared to them a "necessity," they petitioned the colonial government for the privilege of erecting the same.

At the time of the presentation of the petition before the Provincial Council, (on the 10th of June, 1697,) that ancient body were then in session at the house of Phineas Pemberton, who, being a practical surveyor, and personally interested in the proposed scheme, was very properly chosen by the Board to draft the plan and mark the dimensions of the town. At this period of our provincial history, (the 19th year of the colony,) there were six counties, viz: Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, New Castle, Kent, and Sussex. These respective counties made return of twelve delegates each, the Governor making choice of three from each return for Councilmen, the remaining fifty-four constituting the Assembly.* There were present at the session of

* In a letter of information from William Penn to the "Company of Free Traders," dated Philadelphia, 16th of 6th Mo. (Aug.), 1683, the Proprietor says, "The planted part of the Province and Territories is cast into six counties: Philadelphia, Buckingham, Chester, Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex; containing about 4000 souls. Two General Assemblies have been held, and with such concord and dispatch, that they sat three weeks and at least seventy laws were passed without one dissent in any material thing. And for the well government of said counties, courts of justice are established in every county, with proper officers as Justices, Sheriffs, Clerks, Con-

Council above mentioned, as follow: William Markham, Lieut. Gov.; Samuel Carpenter, Joseph Growdon, Caleb Pusey, and Phineas Pemberton, Councilmen.

The original draft of the "Market Town" plot by Pemberton has not been preserved among the records of the town. The oldest original draft believed now to be in preservation, is that of John Cutler, made the 13th of 7th mo. 1715, which is much defaced and obliterated from frequent handling. This draft by Cutler purports to be drawn "according to Phineas Pemberton's survey, with some amendments" (evidently meaning a further extension of the town plot,) "by an agreement of the inhabitants." On this draft we find the town laid out into twelve blocks or squares, and eleven suburbal parts or fractions.*

stables; which courts are held every two months. But to prevent law-suits, there are three Peace-makers chosen by every County Court, in the nature of common arbitrators, to hear and end differences between man and man. And Spring and Fall there is an Orphans' Court in each county, to inspect and regulate the affairs of orphans and widows."—(*See Janney's Life of Penn*, p. 247.)

* The names of the lot-holders, with their respective local places, as presented on Cutler's draft, are—

On west side of Mill street, from the dock to *Cedar St.*—1. Joseph Growdon. *Cedar to Wood*—1. Phineas Pemberton; 2. John White. *Wood to Pond*—1. Robert Brown; 2. John Smith; 3. Thos. Musgrove; 4. John Town; 5. Samuel Carpenter. (Although not upon the draft, the compiler has reliable authority in saying that Samuel Carpenter's plot extended north of Pond street, embracing all that valuable property long known as "the Bristol Mills.")

Mill Street, east side, from *Water* to *Radcliffe St.*—1. Thomas Brock. *Radcliffe to Cedar*—1. Thomas Brock; 2. Henry Baker; 3. Anthony Burton. *Cedar to Wood*, (and, *Mill to Market St.*)—1. Phineas Pemberton; 2. Samuel Bown; 3. Wm. Croasdale; 4. Sam'l Oldale. *Wood to Pond*, (and, *Mill to Market*,)—1. John White; 2. John Smith; 3. Thos. Musgrove. Lands north of Pond, lying between Mill and Mulberry streets, were owned by Thomas Brock; and north-east of Brock's by John Town, Thomas Musgrove, John Smith and John White.

Market Street, west side, from *Water to Radcliffe*—1. Anthony Burton. *Radcliffe to Cedar*—1. Ant. Burton; 2. Thos. Brock.

Market St., east side, from *Water to Cedar*—1. Samuel Carpenter. *Cedar to Wood*—1. Phineas Pemberton; 2. Sam'l Carpenter. *Wood to Pond*, (east *of Market to Walnut*,) lands of John White and John Town.

Mulberry Street, west side, from *Water to Wood*—1. Peter White.

It is proper to notice that nearly all the early papers and records belonging to the corporation, (say from about the year 1700 to 1749, and others of more recently intervening periods,) have been lost, some destroyed by rats, and others scattered abroad; a fact to be regretted by many, as it involves much of our local history in obscurity. (See Minutes of the Corporation, 1807.)—Still enough may be searched out from what is remaining, together with other data connected therewith, interspersed through books, to afford sufficient matter to make this little compilation somewhat interesting to our citizens.

Some of the earliest records of the county appear also to have suffered a like fate; and we are told by that indefatigable annalist, J. F. Watson, that when the road from Philadelphia to Buckingham "was across the Neshamony, at Galloway's ford, one mile above Hulmeville, through Langhorne's park, thence by Attleborough,"—"Near that ford once stood Growdon's old fire proof, in which were kept the records of Bucks county; and when Joseph Galloway went off with the British in 1778 the office was broken open and the records strewed about, to the use of any who might possess them."* (ii. p. 100.)

The petition for the erection of the "market town" was received by the Colonial Board with marked favor: the original of which displays a good degree of sound judgment and discernment on the part of its projectors. Among the "liberties" asked for, were, the right of "wharfing and building to a convenient distance into the river and creek,"—"that every street and opening towards the river and creek may be allowed to be a

East side of Mulberry, from *Water to Radcliffe*—Anthony Burton. *Radcliffe to Cedar*—1. A. Burton; 2. T. Brock. *Cedar to Wood*—1. Phin. Pemberton; 2. Thos. Brock.

Walnut St., west side, from *Water to Radcliffe*—1. Thos. Brock. *Radcliffe to Cedar*—1. Thos. Brock; 2. Anthony Burton. *Cedar to Wood*—Thomas Brock.

East side of Walnut, (from Water street, north 45o west to Cedar street,) lands of Robert Brown.

* The old fire-proof has not been entirely demolished; enough is still existing to attest the fact of the attack made upon it, while its old door, perforated with bullet-holes from the British musketry, we are told, has been still preserved.

public landing,"—"that the buildings on the bank may be so regulated as there may be a street, under the bank, both to the river and creek," &c. (Col. Rec. iii. p. 49.)

A speedy assent having been granted by the Board, in accordance with their desires, (the town plot being carefully surveyed and staked out by Phineas Pemberton,) immediately houses and shops were in progress of erection; and so encouraging and prosperous was the enterprise, not only in the building up of the town in accordance with its original design, but it had an early character for the advantages which it both afforded and derived as an emporium of trade.

Ferries and landings were now being established by authority at various important points upon the river; one between this town and Burlington;* one at Duncken Williams', (now known as Dunks';) and over the Neshamony; and at other required places. Also, the original road from the "Falls" to the Ferry at Bristol, the "king's highway," (now the Philadelphia and Trenton pike,) and a number of other roads, important to the welfare of Bristol, were surveyed and opened by Thomas Fairlamb and others, as early as 1696; facilities which, at the very outset, tended to the direct benefit, growth and prosperity of the town. So that, in the lapse of about twenty years, (1718,) the townspeople then deemed it essential to the interests of the place, that it should be erected into a Borough.

Whereupon, "Anthony Burton, John Hall, William Watson, Joseph Bond, and others," petitioned the colonial government therefor. (Town Rec.)—A "unanimous opinion" was expressed in its favor; and the petitioners were instructed to apply to the then Attorney General for a suitable draft for that purpose;—which they immediately did; and having obtained one which appeared satisfactory to them, it was submitted to and approved

* Among the earlier "Acts psssed by the General Assembly of the Province of New Jersey, the 17th of March, 1713, in the 12th and 13th years of Queen Anne," is one establishing a ferry from the town of Burlington to the town of New Bristol.

By the Pennsylvania acts, ferries were established over the Delaware river and the Neshamony creek the 7th of June, 1712; one at the Falls, 31st of May, 1718; while Duncken Williams's ferry was in use of the two provinces as early as year 1696.

by the Colonial Board, on the 19th of July, 1720. (Col. Rec. iii. p. 96.)—But it was not alone necessary to obtain the assent of the local government here, whose powers were exceedingly limited, but every important public measure was required to be submitted directly to the approbation or sanction of the crown. A due return was received by the anxious expectants, with the necessary Letters Patent, bearing date the 14th of November, 1720.*

It is worthy of a passing notice, that Samuel Carpenter, who in his day was an influential and has been represented as a wealthy man, once owned the estate called "Bristol Mills, (now the property of our enterprising townsman John Dorrance,) and also "the Island against Burlington, of 350 acres." (Watson, i. p. 520.)

In the year 1773 stage coaches, (being the first of that character,) were established by Messrs. C. Bessonett & Co., of Bristol, "to run from Philadelphia to New York, in two days, for the fare of four dollars." (Watson, i. p. 219.)

* We here present a brief synopsis of the corporate powers of this ancient grant. In the preamble is set forth "George, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith," &c.—to the petitioners—"formerly adventurers into the Province of Pennsylvania, and owners of a certain tract or site of land formerly called Buckingham, in the county of Bucks,—did—appropriate several of their lots—lying—on the river Delaware—to build and settle upon." "And that many people since have been encouraged to erect buildings—lay out public streets—as also to erect a Church and Meeting-house—and—caused a Court-house and Prison to be erected there.—And we being willing to promote trade, industry, rule, and good order, amongst all our loving subjects—have erected and by these presents do erect the said Town of Bristol into a Borough—." Then follow the courses and distances of the Borough bounds; the names and regulation of the streets as laid out; reservation for wharves and landings; "Joseph Bond and John Hall to be present Burgesses, and Thomas Clifford, High Constable—;" their powers and duties; H. Constable to be Clerk of the market; and fairs and markets established, and a general grant of franchise "unto the said Burgesses, Constable, and Inhabitants—and to their successors—."

Period of the Revolution.

LOCAL INCIDENTS.

"I'll tell you a story—."

ALTHOUGH the anecdotes told of the war of Independence cannot be counted for multitude, nevertheless there are many interesting incidents which now only exist as a dream of memory in the minds of our older people. We here present such interesting incidents of the Revolution, occurring in and near our Borough, as they have been told us, or otherwise obtained.

"I say the tale as 't was said to me."

About Dec. 1776, General Cadwalader had under his command at Bristol an encampment of about 3,000 troops; and in April, 1777, about 1500 soldiers were billeted on the inhabitants. Says Wm. J. Duane, Esq., in a private letter written to the compiler in 1849, in connexion with other remembrances of 1799, "Above your town about half a mile there was a camp for a part of what was called 'John Adams's standing army; and on one occasion there was much excitement in the town in consequence of the circumstance that one of the captains (Gibbs), stationed in the camp, put an offending soldier into an oven as a punishment. I doubt whether any of your oldest inhabitants remember this circumstance; but I do. Subsequently I became acquainted with Capt. Gibbs, who, indeed, may be yet living."

The following details, (believed to be now first given in print,) have been communicated to us by our venerable townsmen, David Swain, Sr., Samuel Allen, and Henry Tomlinson, Esqrs.

Where our venerable townsman Samuel Allen, Esq., now owns and resides, (corner of Otter and Mill streets,) was once a guard-house; and Bristol having raised a company of militia, they had their armory in a small brick building then attached to the same house, which was torn away, and the house remodeled in 1852. This company had a cannon planted at the forks of

the road, and they kept sentries posted at night, &c. A detachment of loyalists who had gone over to the British cause, nothing daunted, determined to capture the town, and a party of light-horsemen were detailed for the purpose; they arrived at the ford now called Flushing Mills, below Newportville, in the night, and secreted themselves under cover of the trees and bank of the creek, until the booming of the morning gun announced that the last sentry had retired from his post; when, muffling their horses' feet, they smartly pursued their course to the town, and found its inhabitants all fast asleep. They quickly placed a guard at the door of each house of any apparent importance, and forced the occupants from their beds, many of them not even allowed time to dress, and marshaled them in a line along by where Sam'l Allen's house is. Here they were allowed to send for clothing and finish dressing. One fellow, an ensign in the company, attempted an escape, by running away across the meadow, which was then banked in, but which is now a marsh at the mouth of Mill creek. He was pursued by a horseman, who, on nearing him, ordered him to stop, which order not being obeyed, was very unceremoniously enforced by a sabre-cut upon the head.*

A townsman living in the house now occupied by Mr. Jesse Knight, (the dwelling attached to the Mill property,) was aroused in the morning by some one calling at the door that the British had possession of the town; which he did not believe, thinking that some of the family were trying to amuse themselves at his

* Says Mr. Tomlinson, in a note to the compiler, "Those men who went to the British in Philadelphia, and formed themselves into a company of light-horse, to plunder, distress, and take prisoners, entered Bristol on the morning of Good Friday, 1777; and began their brutal conduct by breaking into houses, and dragging the men from their beds, without giving them time to put on their small clothes. They beat them on their backs, with their swords, telling them to 'remember Good Friday.' Among those taken from this place were, Edward Church, an infirm old man and a pious Friend; Richard Gosline, Thomas Broom, John Green, and Levi Douglass; to be dealt with as the British officers might choose. Cunningham, the jail-keeper, let some starve to death, as I have been told by my wife, such being the fate of her father, William Heeton, in that Walnut street prison, Philadelphia."

expense. In a few minutes an axe came flying through the door, making the splinters fly in every direction, when he without stopping to dress, and rushing to the foot of the stairs, saw that the only chance for escape was by dodging under the horse's neck, which attempting, the horseman made a stroke at him with his sword, which luckily took effect in the top of the post attached to the steps, splitting it some six inches or more.

The captain of the militia company, whom they most wanted, they were not able to find; he being secreted in the garret of an old frame house at the corner of Bath and Mill streets, where now stands the brick building occupied as a store and dwelling.

After getting all the principal citizens they could find, they took them as prisoners of war to Philadelphia; no one but the ensign being hurt, nor were any depredations of much account committed. The prisoners were there detained some two or three months, and then released.

During the Revolution the river shore at Bristol was skirted with a sentry of gondolas and barges, which were chiefly used for telegraphing.

Whilst a portion of the American army were quartered in the Borough, the old Episcopal Church, (then having fallen into decay,) was used as a stabling for their horses; while the old Friends' Meeting-house, being in a better condition, was made an hospital for their sick.* Some of the bodies of the soldiers who had died were buried in the Episcopal burial ground; others

* Before the Revolution, as appears by the oldest Town Records now preserved, the old style of entry for meetings was—"At a Towns Meeting held ye —th day of ——, and in the 5th year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Second, Anno Domini 1731, in and for the said Boro', Present," &c. At another entry the Records furnish the following,—"At a Towns Meeting the 8th day of Nov'er, 1757.—The Chief Burgess having informed this Towns Meeting tht a Detachm't of near 200 men of the 35th Regim't is expected to be in this Boro' to-morrow, and that a great Number of the King's Troops will shortly take the same Rout in Marching to their Winter Quarters, and that the Tavern Keepers in Town will not be able to receive into their Houses or accommodate such Detachm'ts as will probably halt here, at one time; Wherefore, it is Ordered, That the High Const'le of this Boro' do immediately put the old Court House in such order as it may be fit to receive so many as it will conveniently hold; and that firewood, straw, &c. be pro-

in the burial ground below "the old guard-house," (Otter street,) latterly known as "the Baptists' lot," and now the property in trust of the Board of School Directors, upon which is now being built the second Public School-house for the Borough.*

Gilbert Hicks, the grandfather of Edward and Elias, was High Sheriff of Bucks County at the commencement of the Revolution. In the fall of 1776, after the Declaration of Independence, he called court in the king's name; which gave great offence to the liberty portion of the citizens, so much that they assembled in mass at Newtown, on the day court was ordered. Gilbert had become aware that the course was not acceptable to the mass of the people. At the time, he lived in the brick house at the corner, in Attleborough, which he had built for his own use. On the present occasion he had a negro servant mounted on a fleet horse at Newtown, and his friends mingled with the crowd, to ascertain the result of their deliberations. After a time it

vided by him, and an acc't of the expense thereof, w'th what other expense may accrue by reason of the marching and counter-marching of the Kings Troops through this Boro', and his own attendance in Billeting and providing of Carriages, &c. be kept by him, to be laid before the Commissioners of the County for their Order to pay the same. But in case they should refuse to give such Order (w'ch in right they ought not to do,) then it is to be paid out of the Stock of This Corporation."

Under date of Oct. 17, 1814, the following record is made: "The Inhabitants of the Borough of Bristol were notified to a meeting at the Council Chamber, at 3 o'clock, to consider the best mode of relieving those families of drafted Militia that may be in want. It was the opinion of the Meeting, that the Burgesses and Council were the most suitable to provide the means and appoint the committee to inquire into the wants of their families. The Borough officers agreed to meet at the house of John Bessonett, at 6 o'clock in the evening, to consider on the above business."—"The Borough officers met agreeably to agreement.—Whereas it appears necessary that a certain sum of money should he appropriated for the use of the drafted Militiamen's families, Resolved, That one hundred dollars be appropriated for said use."

* This will be a beautiful and substantial structure, and one now much required; it will be an ornament to the Borough, and a credit to the Directors. The present Board (1853,) consists of J. D. Mendenhall, *Pres't;* E. D. Buckman, *Sec.;* L. M. Wharton, D. P. Forst, Thos. Callanan, F. W. Swan.

was determined to hang him if they could get him; which intelligence was quickly conveyed to the negro, who started for home as fast as he could go. At the same time some of the crowd mounted their horses for the purpose of seizing the person of Gilbert; and as they neared the foot of Attleborough hill they discovered the messenger near the top of it, and fired at him, with no other effect, however, than to set him off the faster. As he neared Gilbert's house, he sees him watching for his return with the news; and calls to him to clear himself without delay. The negro dashed on, and secreted himself in the well-known woodland of "Langhorne's Hill." Gilbert left the house by the back way, and without speaking to any one, crossed the fields, and was secreted in an old chest in the garret of a neighboring house. The horsemen searched Gilbert's house and buildings, but without avail. He kept secreted in the woods around for several weeks, frequently calling on such of his old friends as he could depend on; but finding his life still in danger, he left, and went to Nova Scotia, where he received some land and an annual pension. Some few years after, he was assassinated on his way home, after receiving his pay. His landed property is said to still remain in his own name, subject to the claim of the proper heirs.

"The American army, late in the year 1776, retreated across New Jersey into this county. Gen. Washington defended all the passes of the river from Coryell's ferry to Bristol. His head quarters were at Newtown while he was urging upon Congress the necessity of reinforcing the army."—"The body of troops stationed at Bristol, under the command of Gen. Cadwalader," were summoned by Gen. Washington to form one of the three divisions, "to surprise the enemy's post at Trenton."—*See Pa. Hist. Col.*, p. 158.

"The Buckley-house," Radcliffe street, Bristol, "was erected at a very early date, [1735]. Lafayette spent some time there while recovering from his wound received at the battle of Brandywine."—*Ibid*, p. 166. This old edifice, long and familiarly known as the "Willis house," is still standing; in the garden of which, on the opposite side of the street stand the two beautiful Gothic residences of Daniel P. Forst and Samuel Swain, Jr. The old "Buckley" was used as a bake-house for the American soldiery, while quartered here. Although in a dilapidated condition, the main edifice is still tenanted.

Our Later Times.

THE "BOROUGH."—TIME'S DOINGS.

"Inexorably calm, with silent pace,
Here time hath passed."

We may now pass to that eventful period which severed the connexion of the colonies with the parent government; when this corporation, in common with all others deriving their powers from Great Britain was freed from monarchial rule. At this time the citizens of the Borough petitioned the State Legislature for a restoration of the corporate powers enjoyed under its ancient constitution, which was granted and passed on the 16th of September, 1785.* This charter continued in force so far as it could be rendered practicable with the changes and spirit of our republican institutions, up to the year 1851! But this State Act re-establishing the powers under the English charter, in later years, had become so inefficient and dubious of construction, as to lead to repeated difficulties and perplexities; so that important measures of general interest and convenience, involving the prosperity of the corporation, had from time to time to be submitted to legal counsel, before any decided action could be taken

* This was entitled "An Act to re-establish the ancient Corporation of the Borough of Bristol.—Whereas the Corporation of the Borough of Bristol in the County of Bucks, as it derived its charter, privileges and immunities from the crown of Great Britain, was on the declaration of the independence of this State thereby immediately dissolved; and whereas it appears necessary to a majority of the freemen of the said Borough that its ancient constitution be restored under the authority of the Legislature of Pennsylvania; and that the officers of the said Borough be established by law, and have perpetual succession; so that the inhabitants of the said Borough may have the power of regulating their markets, fairs, wharves, streets, and other public concerns, in like manner as they had under their late charter;—Be it," &c.—Sec. 1, provides for the special appointment of officers for the time being, &c.—2, the restoration of the corporate powers; franchise, &c.

by the Borough authorities. Yet, strange to say, under that charter, the corporate powers of the Borough of Bristol continued to be administered for an additional period of sixty-five years.

From the continued growth in population of the Borough, incident mainly to the natural and artificial advantages, and the productiveness of the soil, of the surrounding country, and to the river facilities, Bristol was not only a town of early promise of importance, but also became the permanent residence of most of its first settlers, the descendants of many of which families are still among and around us. It was also once a more noted place of residence of families of wealth and gaity than at present; while several highly distinguished persons have, from time to time, been its permanent residents.

The old original Borough boundaries, (including the changes which may have been made about the time of Cutler's draft,) remained unaltered up to 1801, when it was enlarged by Act of Assembly to its present bounds.* This is said to have been done under a survey made by Isaac Hicks. The petition for an extension was drawn by Richard Lloyd, and submitted to and approved by the Burgesses and Council, at their meeting held on the 6th of January of the above year, and was signed by most of the towns-people. The streets as originally laid out by Pemberton and now extended by Hicks, were Mill and Radcliffe, (lying on the Turnpike,) Cedar, Wood and Pond; Market, Mulberry and Walnut.

The necessity of securing a charter of incorporation better adapted to the circumstances of the Borough had long been ap-

* The Act was passed Feb. 11th, 1801; the first section of which sets forth the boundaries of the Borough, which is thought not necessary to be here presented. The second and last section gives to the Borough officers authority "to lay out, open and regulate streets and alleys for the accommodation of the inhabitants; and generally to have and exercise within the said Borough, as extended by this Act, all the powers vested in them by the original Act of Incorporation."—*Bor. Ord. Book*, p. 17. And, March 29th, 1804, was passed "An Act altering and extending the powers of the corporation of the Borough of Bristol," the first section of which provides the mode for electing the two Burgesses, (now obsolete,) while all the powers granted by the remaining sections are fully embraced in the present Act of Incorporation.

parent to its citizens; and still no decisive steps were taken in the matter up to June, 1849. At that time, the Bristol Gazette, (the publication of which had just been commenced,) was the first successfully to move the citizens to frame and apply for a more efficient charter. After publishing, in its first numbers, the original English Charter, and the subsequent State acts, and commenting upon them, said, "The powers reposed in our borough officers should be ample, explicit, and determined; those conferred by the present charter are vague, uncertain, and undefined. In some instances their want of authority has been severely felt and universally deprecated. In others it is exceedingly questionable; while oftentimes it is absolute and unbounded. . . . "

The citizens now began to consider the matter earnestly. A general town-meeting was called and held on the 26th of July, 1850, and a committee appointed to draft the provisions of a new charter, to be submitted to the people and to the Legislature.—Samuel Allen, Esq., Dr. Benjamin Malone, (then State Senator,) Andrew W. Gilkeson, Esq., Anthony Swain, Esq., William H. Swift, Isaac Van Horn, Pugh Dungan, William M. Downing, Gilbert Tomlinson, and William Bache, composed that committee; who, after holding a number of meetings, prepared and agreed upon a draft which was satisfactory to the people;—which draft, with a few slight amendments, passed the Legislature, and was approved the 15th of February, 1851.

The Burgess and Council, in meeting on the 25th of February, 1853, took into consideration the propriety of asking such amendments in the Borough charter as shall secure to the corporation the power and control in opening and extending streets, and the jurisdiction of the port in building and extending wharves and landings. It was determined that these privileges should be asked; and an Act was passed at the session of 1853, giving Burgess and Council the necessary powers.

The present two-story brick Town House and Market, in Market street, was erected in 1831, at a cost of $1750. When the building was completed, a cupola was raised and a clock placed therein at a cost of $674 40. This expense was partly defrayed with a bequest left for that purpose by Samuel Scotton,

who was Chief Burgess in 1802, and at other periods filled that post and other offices of the corporation. The bequest was made in 1833; and the remainder of the entire cost of the improvement was supplied out of a special corporation loan.* Since which, the meetings of Council and the elections have been there held to the present time.*

The upper room, or Council Chamber, is entered by a stairway leading from the first floor. The lower room forms a thoroughfare into the Market House from the general entrance on

* Mr. Henry Tomlinson, (before mentioned, and to whose recollections we are indebted in making more clear to our mind the particulars of several matters noticed,) in speaking of the fairs and markets says, that at the old market-house in Mill street opposite to Cedar, besides the whipping post mentioned in a former note, there was also "a wooden frame, built square; and in its centre were places made to confine the legs of persons for crimes committed against the laws of the Province." He adds, in his memorandum, "Fairs were allowed to be held yearly; and the space prepared for them extended from the market-house to the old court-house in Cedar street. After a time, it occurring that under the privileges granted by the charter, the market-house could be presented as a nuisance in occupying the highway, at the demand of citizens it was so declared, and removed; when the second one, at the intersection of Cedar and Market streets was built; which also was afterwards declared a nuisance, and removed."

April 4, 1796, an Act of Assembly was passed "to annul and repeal so much of any charter or law of the State as empowers the inhabitants of the Borough of Bristol in the County of Bucks to hold and keep fairs within the same."

In 1817, another movement was made for the erection of a market-house; a committee of Council was appointed, consisting of Louis Bache, John Phillips, and Benjamin Swain, to select a proper site, &c. In March, 1818, John Reed was added to the committee, —the same, by a resolution of the Board being now a "building committee." The site chosen was a lot situate on the west side of Market street at the corner of Wood, and opposite Friends' Meeting-house. It was finished in September, 1819, and cost (Bor. Rec.) $285 03. It was removed in 1832, to its present location, (adjoining the Town Hall,) most of the material of which being again used for the purpose.

In November, 1830, it was "unanimously agreed by the Board to build a Town House," &c.—"Joseph M. Downing, Eleazer Fenton, and Robert C. Beatty are appointed a committee to procure materials, and superintend, &c.; and in March, 1831, the same being completed, the committee report, that they have received and paid over to the Treasurer the legacy of Samuel Scotton.

Radcliffe street. It has a basement story, which is used as a lock-up for the disorderly and for the shelter of poor foot-travelers and vagrants.

At present there is in the Borough one private circulating library, established by Mrs. Lydia Lukens; and although not an extensive one, it has kept pace with the demand of its patronizers. Fifty-three years ago the Aurora newspaper was temporarily removed from Philadelphia, and published at Bristol, during the prevalence of the yellow fever. In 1849, the Bristol Gazette was established, it being the first periodical published in Bristol with a view to permanency. But such were the discouragements in the undertaking, that after struggling for a time, it expired on the issue of its fifty-second number. Had a local press been established and sustained at Bristol in earlier times, we feel persuaded that this place would long since have grown one of far greater importance than it is now; and many have regretted that our people could not forsee or would not avail themselves of the advantages offered them in 1849.

Of the public institutions and organized societies now in the Borough, there are, seven religious denominations who have houses of worship; a commodious Public School; a Masonic Lodge; and the Washington Hall;—in which latter building now meet, the Hopkins' Lodge and Hope Encampment, Sons, Daughters and Cadets of Temperance associations, American Mechanics and Daughters of America: all in a thriving condition.—Also, an association of Philozathians, and the Bristol and the Union Building Associations.

One of the earliest associations in the Borough, now in existence, is the old Beneficial Society, now holding its meetings in the Town Hall. Its affairs have been prosperously conducted; and it has not only fully accomplished the beneficial purposes of its institution, but it has gained, from time to time, overplus monies, which have been loaned on interest.

The religious houses of worship are: The old Friends' Meeting, corner of Market and Wood streets; the old Episcopal Church, on Walnut street, north of Cedar; the Methodist in Wood street, above Mulberry; Orthodox Friends, corner of Wood and Walnut; Roman Chapel, Radcliffe street, near the

bridge; Presbyterian Church, Radcliffe street, east of Market; and Baptist, corner of Walnut and Cedar.

One hundred years ago (Old Town Rec.) the Borough contained only 72 male taxables, 24 of whom were single men.—In 1806, (Scott's Geog.,) Bristol contained about 90 houses.—"By the census of 1800, the population was 511; in 1810, 628; in 1820, 908." (Pa. Hist. Col.) By the census of 1840, it will be seen, that the enumeration of its inhabitants at that time was 1438;—and in 1850 the Borough was found to contain a population of 2570: of which there were males 1287; females 1283; (colored persons 89.) This shows the prosperous increase in ten years of 1132 souls, or about 80 per cent! In 1850-1, there were about 450 dwellings in the Borough, (besides a number of shops of various kinds;) and in the Spring of 1852, they numbered 500. At the present time, (Summer of 1853,) the Borough contains about 600 buildings, as dwellings, stores, and manufactories of various kinds; and we will venture to say, on the judgment of others as well as our own, that the population of the Borough now numbers about 3,000. Previous to the year 1848, and before the oldest Building Association was organized, the spirit of building improvement had long lain dormant. And, we ask, have not these last noted facts mainly resulted from that spirit of progress in building up the waste places around us, to which the energies of many of our enterprising men have latterly been directed? And yet how often do we hear the premonition, even by men of discernment, that this same spirit is hazardous of pecuniary success and prosperity. But let the facts and the figures show for themselves.

The population of Bristol has always largely exceeded that of any other town in this highly favored county; has all along regularly continued to be, and now is, almost double that of the county town; whilst it is environed by a more densely populated country, enterprising villages, and grain and lumber mill seats, than any other borough in the county.

Commanding the immediate advantages of the river navigation, the railroad, turnpike and canal, Bristol is therein possessed of local facilities for the advancement of industrial pursuits, which, although adding much to its prosperity, nevertheless, for

a long period of years, but little enterprise had been aroused into action. Latterly, however, its advantages as a manufacturing post seem to be awakening, while the broad field is still open and at command of capitalists, for erecting works for all the heavier manufactures; and, we opine, the day is not far distant, when Bristol *must* become one of the greatest and most valuable manufacturing posts bordering upon the river Delaware.—The Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal terminating at this port, it is made the general depot for transhipment of anthracite coal from the Lehigh region: affording labor to a large number of operatives and vesselmen, who must be fed, clothed, and furnished with all necessary implements of labor.—Hence, again, this gives an active impulse to dealers in the common necessaries of life, and of the trades more particularly to smith-work, rope, harness, and shoe making;—consequently, at present, the larger amount of the capital of the place is invested in the pursuits mentioned.

At present the greater amount of business in general storekeeping is carried on in Mill street: which now has twelve retail stores for the sale of groceries, provisions, clothing, dry-goods, and housekeeping articles generally. Besides these, there are now on the same street two fancy dry-goods and trimming stores, two leather and shoe-findings stores, three tin and sheet-iron manufactories, three millinery and two tailoring establishments, three harness manufactories, three boot and shoe makers, a grain and a saw mill, two hat manufacturers, one smith-shop, two drug and medicine stores, two tobacconists, one soap and candle manufactory, one cabinet-ware maker, a printing office, a watchmaker and jeweler, two bakers, and one public house.

On Radcliffe street we have three or four stands for general storekeeping, one millinery and one ladies shoe store, a confectionery, two public houses, a few shop-keepers, and a boat-yard.

Bath street is at present chiefly occupied with private residences. The property on the upper side, however, has been rendered very valuable for landings on the canal and on a small inlet of sufficient capacity to admit canal-boats. Two extensive lumber and coal yards are upon this inlet, which yards open on Bath street.

On Cedar street, one small grocery store, one blacksmiths' shop, one wheelwrights' shop, and a livery stable.

On Wood street are two small grocery shops, an iron foundry, one ladies' shoe-shop, one blacksmith and one paint shop.

On Market street, one blacksmith shop, one paint shop, one cooper shop, one ladies' shoe shop, and two livery stables.

At Mulberry and Pond streets is erected Hibbs, Fry & Company's machine-shops for the manufacture of clover hullers and cleaners, invented and patented by Jonathan Hibbs, one of the partners. Also on Mulberry street is carried on the business of grain cradle making.

On Walnut street, several boot and shoe manufactories.

On Buckley street has recently been erected Strong & Morgan's malleable iron and tilt-hammer works, now going into active operation. The business of rope making is also carried on in this street.

In Otter street have recently been erected one wheelwright shop and a pump-makers' shop. Otter street is becoming one of the most favorable localities for the erection of shops for carrying on the mechanic arts, particularly such as are more generally required by our neighboring farmers. A small grocery store has recently been opened on this street, required by the rapid advancement in building up the lots opened for improvement in that neighborhood in 1851.

On Linden street, (in the plot just noticed,) is erected an extensive and complete coach, wheelwright, blacksmith, painting and coach-trimming establishment.

A large amount of the river front, and sites on the canal, are occupied by coal operators, and some portions for boat-building.

Along the line of canal within the limits of the town are several extensive stables, smith shops, a coopers' shop, and stores adapted to the wants of watermen.

We do not claim in the above recapitulation to have noticed all the industrial pursuits of the town; while enough has been presented to give a general idea of the Borough as to its business character in 1853.

NOTABILIA.

We here present, in a form convenient for reference, the several periods at which the streets of the Borough were opened, or released to public use; also, such as have been opened to use, but not yet formally released to the corporation.

The several new plots mentioned in the names of individuals, by whom they were laid out, have generally been taken up by mechanics and other laborers, who are rapidly improving them, thereby not only extending the area of the built portions of the town, but, in consideration of the fact that our dwelling-houses have latterly been in demand, these improved neighborhoods are now adding increased value to both the improved and unimproved property of the Borough everywhere, but in a greater ratio in their respective localities, and in a degree commensurate with the progress which each is making.

STREETS:

Mill. Original highway.
Wharf extended in 1830; further extension, 1850;
New slip built, and wharf planked, 1853.
New foot-bridge over Canal, 1853.

Radcliffe. Old original highway.

Cedar. Original to Walnut street.
Wharf built in 1830.
Street continued from Walnut to Franklin, 1849; from Penn to Warren's land, 1851.

Wood. Original to Walnut.
In 1766, John Hutchinson vacates to the public use, ground for its further extension easterly from Walnut.
Wharf at foot of Wood st. built in 1815.
Street continued to Penn st., 1851; and from Penn to Washington, 1851.

Cherry Alley, laid out in 1849.

Pond. Original to Walnut.
Wharf built in 1830.
The easterly extension from Walnut is an old lane.

STREETS:

INTERSECTIONS, viz:

Market. Original.
Wharf, use of, leased to Phil. & Tr. R. R. Co. for 25 years at $150 per an., April 30, 1844.

Mulberry. Original to Pond.

Walnut. Original to Wood.
Extended to Pond in 1811.
Wharf built, 1837.

LAING'S AND DORRANCE AND WRIGHT'S PLOTS.

Franklin, laid out in 1836.

Penn, laid out in 1836.

(NOT RELEASED, viz:)

Dorrance, laid out in 1851.

Washington, laid out in 1851.

One other, (not named,) east of, and parallel with Washington street, 1852.

Bath. (N.-westerly from the junction of Mill and Otter.)
Opened in 1809, by private individuals; and declared by Council to be an "infringement of the rights of the corporation."
Widened and regulated in 1821.

QUERVELLE'S PLOT.

Buckley, running easterly from Bath street. Laid out in 1847. (With streets intersecting, not released.)

Otter. Original highway.

W. AND E. LAING AND CO.'S PLOT.—(NOT RELEASED.)—
Formerly Heiskell's, viz:

Streets diverging northerly from Otter street:—
Linden, *Locust*, and *Maple*, 1851; and intersected by—
Pearl and *Green*, parallel with Otter, 1851.

SEAL [Borough]. On the margin the words "Borough of Bristol, Pa.—A Steamboat engraved in the centre.

This devise was proposed and adopted in Council, the 15th of August, 1826.

FISCAL AFFAIRS:

For a long period of years the Borough finances had been fully supplied out of the receipts of the corporation for wharfage, market rents, hay-scales, &c.; so that little or no assessment of taxes for Borough purposes were required up to the close of the 17th century.

We here present the amount of taxes required to be levied, annually, during the past half-century:

TAXES *authorized to be Levied:—*

Feb. 1803,	$100 00	Sept. 1820,	250 00	Sept. 1837,	1000 00
July, 1803,	235 43	Sept. 1821,	200 00	Sept. 1838,	2000 00
Sept. 1804,	80 00	Sept. 1822,	200 00	Sept. 1839,	1200 00
1805, 000.		Sept. 1823,	300 00	Sept. 1840,	1000 00
Sept. 1806,	150 00	Sept. 1824,	300 00	Sept. 1841,	1260 00
1807, 000.		Dec. 1825,	300 00	1842, 000.	
May, 1808,	80 00	Sept. 1826,	400 00	Sept. 1843,	500 00
Sept. 1808,	132 00	1827, 000.		Sept. 1844,	600 00
1809-'10, 000.		April, 1828,	450 00	Sept. 1845,	600 00
Sept. 1811,	450 00	Sept. 1828,	400 00	Sept. 1846,	600 00
Nov. 1812,	200 00	Sept. 1829,	400 00	Sept. 1847,	500 00
1813, 000.		Sept. 1830,	200 00	Sept. 1848,	600 00
Feb. 1814,	250 00	Sept. 1831,	400 00	Sept. 1849,	650 00
1815, 000.		Sept. 1832,	500 00	Sept. 1850,	1000 00
Oct. 1816,	321 00	Sept. 1833,	600 00	May, 1851,	1000 00
Oct. 1817,	550 00	Sept. 1834,	450 00	April, 1852,	1400 00
Sept. 1818,	350 00	Sept. 1835,	450 00	April, 1853,	1400 00
1819, 000.		Sept. 1836,	600 00		

LOANS, &c., *during the past* 20 *years:—*

1831, Ap. to Ap. 1840,—(to build Town House, and for other improvements,) $2,000 00

1831, Aug. to Oct. 1838,—(to repair breach of mill-dam into Bath street,) 1,000 00

1837, May.—Issue of scrip authorized, 5,000 00

[$3,000 of which to be applied to building the Public School-house.] July, additional sum authorized, of 3,400 00

1838, Ap. 16,—(to pay balance due on school-house, $1936 87, and for other objects,) not to exceed 6,000 00

1838, Ap.—(to take out of circulation a like amount in less sums than $50,) 6,000 00

——1837-8. Whole amount of scrip in circulation, 7,689 00

1839, Sept.—Loan to redeem certificates and pay other debts,	7,000 00
1839, Ap.—(Temporary,)	8,000 00
1842, Jan. do.	4,000 00
" March, do.	2,000 00
1842–'51. Whole amount of indebtedness on loans,	7,000 00
1851, Ap.—(To rebuild and extend Mill street wharf,)	1,500 00
1852, March.—Indebtedness on loans,	8,500 00
1852, Mar.—Liabilities, (deducting $647 61 in dues)	7,852 39
1853, March.—Indebtedness on loans,	8,500 00
" " Total indebtedness,	8,597 18
1853, March.—Liabilities (deducting $1184 91 in resources and monies in hand,	7,412 27
1853, Ap.—(Loan to redeem 2 loans of $1000 each,)	2,000 00

In 1846 Council commenced a sinking fund for the gradual extinguishment of the debts of the corporation, by setting aside and loaning on interest, annually the sum of $100. Since 1851, no appropriations have been made to this fund.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES *for Borough purposes from 1842 to 1853:*

FOR THE TERM ENDING—	RECEIPTS.	PAYMENTS.
Sept. 1842,	$2,290 27	$2,273 07
" 1843,	797 67	806 25
" 1844,	770 42	750 32
" 1845,	694 99	677 50
" 1846,	919 02	946 23
" 1847,	3,034 24	2,955 21
" 1848,	1,202 58	1,199 08
" 1849,	1,934 04	1,927 26
" 1850,	2,121 09	2,119 34
March, 1851,*	407 59	427 67
" 1852,	3,652 98	4,156 73
" 1853,	1,914 88	1,850 09

* Under the present charter the Borough year now closes in the month of March, and not in September, as heretofore.

BOROUGH OFFICERS.

Among the early Fathers of this ancient corporation, it will be seen and remembered, stand the names of some of the best and most prominent men of their times; and it affords no little pride of feeling as a citizen of Bristol, and gratification as a compiler of its history, to call back their names from the silent past. The prefatory stanzas to their memory has been kindly and expressly contributed by SAMUEL SWAIN, Jr., at the request of the compiler.

The fact has been before adverted to, that much of the early recorded transactions of the corporation have been lost or destroyed; in consequence of which, our chain of record under this department is frequently severed, the connecting links of which can never be supplied.—Our *notitia* dates with the ancient charter officers, and from *all* the present existing records.

THE VILLAGE FATHERS.

The passed away! Tears will unbidden start
And thoughts grow tender as we trace the *names*
Of those who sleep—*our* fathers, and *their* sires!
Back to the days of pioneering toil
Stretches the kindred tie and clasps a race—
A sterner and a hardier race—than we,
Who build anew their homes. They lived perchance
In doom that seemed unequal—save in hope
And sorrow's portioned shade; but now the same
Kind mother folds them to her faithful breast;—
The same green Summer blossoms o'er their dust
And murmurs to their rest. Their transient part
In life was humbly played: how well, but One,
Their loving Father, knows. Sweet be their sleep,
Lulled by the ripple of the streams they loved,
And kindred childhood's song!

The dark wave breaking on the emerald shore
Flashes a glittering spray: So every Age
That dies on being's verge is crested well
With memories that are sweet to store away.
Our deepest lessons may be truly learned
From off the epitaphs of what hath been,
Read in the clearer sunshine of to-day.
Year chases year from earth; and each should drop
Its honied morsel into Wisdom's urn,
Which, like the Hebrew's manna, must be used
As it is gathered. Life has not an hour
To waste in doubting, while the solemn Past
Is prophet to the Future. Onward, then,
O let us march, strong in the focal light
Experience blends with Hope; and God will help
The soul that toils and loves!

—

1720, Nov. 14.—*Charter Officers:* Joseph Bond and John Hall, Burgesses; Thos. Clifford, High Constable; (to continue in office to 8th of September, 1721.)

1730, Sept. 8.—John Hall, C. B.; Nath'n. Watson, 2d B.; John Priestley, H. C.; John Ab'm De Normandie, Ennion Williams, Thos. Marriott, Wm. Hope, James Higgs, John Elfreth, Common Council.

1731, Sept. 8.—John Ab'm De Normandie, C B; Nath'n Watson, 2d B; John Priestley, H C; Thos. Marriott, James Higgs, Ennion Williams, Benj. Wright, John Elfreth, William Hope, C C.

1732, Sept. 8.—John Hall, C B; Ennion Williams, 2d B; John Ab'm De Normandie, Thos. Marriott, Benj. Wright, Jas. Higgs, William Hope, John Elfreth, C C.

1742, Sept. 8.—John Ab'm De Normandie, C B; John Frohoe, 2d B; John Hutchinson, H C; Jos. Jackson, William Buckley, Thomas Marriott, Ennion Williams, Nicholas Allen, Mathias Keen, C C.

1743, Sept. 8.—John Ab'm De Normandie, C B; John Frohoe, 2d B; John Hutchinson, H C; Enn. Williams, Thomas Marriott, Joseph Jackson, John Anth. De Normandie, William Buckley, C C.

1744, Sept. 8.—*Same.*

1745, Sept. 8.—John Hall, C. B; William Buckley, 2d B; John Ab'm De Normandie, Enn. Williams, Thomas Marriott, Joseph Jackson, Wm. Atkinson, John Frohoe, C C.

1746, Sept. 8.—*Same* Burg.—John Ab'm De Normandie, Enn. Williams, John Frohoe, Wm. Atkinson, John Antho. De Normandie, Wm. De Normandie, C C; J. Priestley, H C.

1747, Sept. 8.—William Buckley, C B; Matthias Keen, 2d B; John Priestley, H C; John Ab'm De Normandie, John Hall, Alex'r Graydon, Enn. Williams, Thomas Marriott, Joseph Jackson, C C.

——— Feb. 29.—John Anthony De Normandie, John Frohoe, Samuel Harker, elected to fill vacancies, by deaths, &c.

1748, Sept. 8.—William Buckley, C B; John De Normandie, 2d B; John Priestley, H C; (Councilmen increased.) John Ab'm De Normandie, Enn. Williams, Alexan'r Graydon, John Hall, John Frohoe, Samuel Harker, Nicholas Allen, John Hutchinson, Joseph Church, C C.

1749, Sept. 8.—*Same*, with exception of Joseph Atkinson and William Large in lieu of John Hall and John Frohoe.

1750, Sept. 8.—William Buckley, C B; William Large, 2d B; Enn. Williams, John Ab'm De Normandie, Alex'r Graydon, Joseph Atkinson, Jos. Church, Thos. Marriott, C C.

1751, Sept. 9.—William Buckley, C B; Joseph Church, 2d B; John Priestley, H C; John Ab'm De Normandie, Alex'r Graydon, Joseph Atkinson, Wm. Large, Enn. Williams, John Allen, Barnard Duffield, Thomas Marriott, Anthony Murphey, C C.

1752,—[Sept. 19. "by reason of the late alteration of style by Act of Parliament."]—William Buckley, C B; Thomas Marriott, 2d B; John Priestley, H C; Ennion Williams, Alexander Graydon, John A. De Normandie, Jos. Church. William Large, John Allen, Joseph Atkinson, Thomas Stapler, Ebenezer Robinson, C C.

1753, Sept. 8.—*Same.*

1754, Sept. 8.—*Same*, with the exception of Matthew Keen in lieu of Ebenezer Robinson.

1755, Sept. 8.—John De Normandie, C B; Joseph Atkinson, 2d B; John Priestley, H C; John Ab'm De Normandie, Enn. Williams, Alex'r Graydon, Wm. Buckley, Jos. Church, Wm. Large, John Allen, Thos. Marriott, Mat. Keen, C C.

1756, Sept. 8.—*Same*, with the exception of Thomas Stapler and John Hutchinson in place of Alexander Graydon and Joseph Church.

1757, Sept. 8.—William Buckley, C B; Joseph Atkinson, 2d B; John Priestley, H C; Ennion Williams, John Ab'm De Normandie, Alexander Graydon, William Large, John Allen, Thomas Marriott, Samuel Woolston, John Hutchinson, Dan'l De Normandie, C C.

1758, Sept. 8.—John De Normandie, C B; William Large, 2d B; John Priestley, H C; Ennion Williams, Alex'r Graydon, William Buckley, John Hutchinson, John Allen, Daniel De Normandie, Thomas Marriott, Joseph Atkinson, Burnet Richards, C C.

1759, Sept. 8.—Ennion Williams, C B; William Large, 2d B; Abraham Brelsford, H C; Alexander Graydon, Thomas Marriott, John Hutchinson, Jos. Atkinson, Butnet Richards, John Priestley, John Allen, John De Normandie, David Pinkerton, C C.

1760, Sept. 8.—Hugh Hartshorne, C B; Burnet Richards, 2d B; John Priestley, H C; Ennion Williams, Alex'r Graydon, Thomas Marriott, John Hutchinson, Joseph Church, Jos. Atkinson, John Allen, John Green, J. De Normandie, C C.

1761, Sept. 8.—John Hall, C B; John Green, 2d B; Samuel Woolson, H C; Enn. Williams, Hugh Hartshorne, John De Normandie, John Allen, William Large, Joseph Atkinson, Joseph Church, C C.

1762, Sept. 8.—Hugh Hartshorne, C B; John Priestley, 2d B: Joseph Brown, H C; Ennion Williams, John De Normandie, John Hall, William McIlvaine, Jos. Atkinson, Wm. Large, Joseph Church, C C.

1763, Sept. 8.—Hugh Hartshorne, C B; David Pinkerton, 2d B; Joseph Brown, H. C; Ennion Williams, John De Normandie, Joseph Atkinson, Joseph Church, Wm. Large, John Allen, John Priestley, C C.

1764, Sept. 8.—John Priestley, C B; Joseph Hall, 2d B; Joseph Brown, H C; Ennion Williams, Hugh Hartshorne, Joseph Church, Joseph Atkinson, Jonathan Haight, Wm. McIlvaine, John Green, C C.

1765, Sept. 8.—Phineas Buckley, C B; John Hutchinson, 2d B; *Same* Council except Joseph Hall in place of Wm. McIlvaine.

1766, Sept. 8.—Phineas Buckley, C B; John Bessonett, 2d B; Ennion Williams, Hugh Hartshorne, John De Normandie, Joseph Atkinson, Jonathan Haight, John Green, John Priestley, C C.

1768, Sept. 8.—Phineas Buckley, C B; John Bessonett, 2d B; Joseph Brown, H C; Ennion Williams, John De Normandie, Hugh Hartshorne, John Priestley, Joseph Atkinson, John Green, Charles Bessonett, C C.

1769, Sept. 8.—*Same.*

1770, Sept. 8.—*Same.*

1771, Sept. 8.—*Same.*

1772, Sept. 8.—*Same,* with the exception of Patterson Hartshorne in place of John Green.

1673, Sept. 8.—*Same* as 1772, with the exception of John Hutchinson in place of John Priestley.

1774, Sept. 8.—Phineas Buckley, C B; John Bessonett, 2d B; Ennion Williams, John Ab'm De Normandie, Hugh Hartshorne, Joseph Atkinson, Charles Bessonett, John Hutchinson, William McIlvaine, C C.

1775, Sept. 8.—*Same,* with the exception of Joseph Church in place of Charles Bessonett. High Cons. John Gosline.

1784, Sept. 8.—Daniel Kennedy, C B; Jos. Clunn, 2d B; Richard Gosline, H C; William McIlvaine, Joseph McIlvaine, Chas. Bessonett, Archibald McElroy, John Gosline, John Dowdney, John Priestley, C C.

1785, Sept. 8.—*Same,* with the exception of William Rodman in place of John Priestley.

1786, Sept. 8.—Amos Gregg, C B; Thomas Pearson, 2d B; Richard Gosline, H. C; Joseph McIlvaine, Archibald McElroy, John Hutchinson, Timothy Merrick, Job Stackhouse, Jos. Vanschiver, Jonathan Pursell, C C.

1787, Sept. 8.—Amos Gregg, C B; Thos. Pearson, 2d B; Richard Gosline, H C; John Hutchinson, Charles Bessonett, Robert Merrick, Job Stackhouse, Timothy Merrick, Jonathan Pursell, William Allen, C C.

1788, Sept. 8.—John Hutchinson, C B: Thomas Pearson, 2d B; Timothy Merrick, H. C; Samuel Kinsey, Amos Gregg, William McIlvaine, Pearson Mitchell, Job Stackhouse, Jonathan Pursell, C C.

1789, Sept. 8.—*Same,* with the exception of Archibald McElroy in place of Amos Gregg.

1790, Sept. 8.—John Hutchinson, C B; Joseph Clunn, 2d B; John Murray, H C; William McIlvaine, Archibald McElroy, Pierson Mitchell, Thomas Pearson, Samuel Kinsey, Timothy Merrick, Jonathan Pursell, C C.

1791, Sept. 8.—John Hutchinson, C B; Jonathan Pursell, 2d B; John Murray, H C, Archibald McElroy, Joseph Clunn, Thomas Pearson, Pierson Mitchell, Sam'l Kinsey, Timothy Merrick, Joseph Minnick, C C.

1792, Sept. 8.—Joseph Minnick, C B; John Gosline, 2d B; Archibald McElroy, Charles Bessonett, Thomas Pearson, Timothy Merrick, Samuel Kinsey, Jonathan Pursell, James Harrison, C C; John Murray, H C.

1793, Sept. 9.—*Same*, excepting Joseph Clunn and William Crawford in place of A. McElroy and C. Bessonett.

1794, Sept. 8.—*Same*, excepting Robert Merrick is 2d B; and George Merrick and Job Stackhouse, in place of Thomas Pearson and James Harrison.

1795, Sept. 8.—Amos Gregg, C B; Rich'd Trimble, 2d B; Sam'l Kinsey, John Gosline, John Hutchinson, Joseph Clunn, Charles Bessonett, Job Stackhouse, Benj. Walton, C C; Robert Merrick, jr. H C.

1796, Sept. 8.—Joseph P. Minnick, C B; John Gosline, 2d B; Joseph Clunn, Amos Gregg, Job Stackhouse, Timothy Merrick, Jonathan Pursell, William Crawford, Lewis Howard, C C; Francis Stackhouse, H C.

1797, Sept. 8.—Charles Shoemaker, C B; John Gosline, 2d B; Joseph Clunn, John Hutchinson, Job Stackhouse, Amos Gregg, Samuel Kinsey, Jonathan Pursell, William Crawford, C C; Francis Stackhouse, H C.

1798, Sept. 8.—Amos Gregg, C B; Joseph P. Minnick, 2d B; William Crawford, John Hutchinson, jr., Richard Lloyd, James Harrison, James Serrill, Joseph Stackhouse, John Baldwin, C C; Francis Stackhouse, H C.

1799, Sept. 8.—John Gosline, C B; Archibald McElroy, 2d B; Joseph Clunn, John Hutchinson, Job Stackhouse, Jonathan Pursell, William Crawford, John Hutchinson, jr., Richard Lloyd, C C; Francis Stackhouse, H C.

1802, Sept. 8.—Samuel Scotton, C B: William Perkins, 2d B; John Gosline, Amos Gregg, Joseph Clunn, Joseph Headley, Jonathan Pursell, James Harrisson, John Reed, C C; William Crawford, H. C.

1803, Sept. 8.—William Perkins, C B; Samuel Scotton, 2d B; Joseph Clunn, Jonathan Pursell, Joseph Headley, Benj. Swain, William McElhany, William Crawford, John Reed, C C; John Johnson, H C.

1804, Sept. 8.—Samuel Scotton, C B; William Perkins, 2d B; Joseph Headly, Benjamin Swain, Joseph Clunn, William McIlhany, William Crawford, Amos Gregg, Job Stackhouse, C C; John Johnson, H C.

1805, Sept. 7.—Amos Gregg, C B; Henry Desborough, 2d B; Joseph Clunn, John Read, William Crawford, Samuel Church, John Patterson, Noah Haines, Joseph Headley, C C; Enos Wright, H C.

1806, Sept. 8.—John Gosline, C B; Henry Disborough, 2d B; Joseph Clunn, William Crawford, Samuel Scotton, Wm. McIlhany, Benjamin Swain, Joseph Headly, John Patterson, C C; Enos Wright, H C.

1807, Sept. 8—Amos Gregg, C B; John Reed, 2d B; Phineas Buckley, Job Stackhouse, Sam'l Lounsberry, John White, Samuel Church, Joseph Stackhouse, Stephen Hibbs, C C; William Kinsey, H C.

1808, Sept. 8.—Amos Gregg, C B; J. S. Mitchell, 2d B; Phineas Buckley, Joseph Headley, Job Stackhouse, Ebenezer Headly, Joseph Stackhouse, Jonathan Pursel, William Crawford, C C; William Kinsey, H C.

1809, Sept. 8.—*Same*, with the exception of John Read in lieu of William Crawford.

1810, Sept. 8.—Amos Gregg, C B; J. S. Mitchell, 2d B; Phineas Buckley, Samuel Scotton, Jonathan Pursell, Jos. Stackhouse, John Reed, Abraham Warner, Sam'l Church, C C; William Kinsey, H C.

1811, Sept. 9.—Amos Gregg, C B; Henry Disborough, 2d B; Jos. Clunn, Phineas Buckley, Jonathan Pursell, John Reed, Sam'l Church, Abraham Warner, Sam'l Lounsberry, C C; Henry Tomlinson, H C.

1812, Sept. 8.—*Same*, with the exception of Joseph Clunn in lieu of John Reed.—William Ennis, H C.

1813, Sept. 8.—Archibald McElroy, C B; John Bessonett, 2d B; Joseph Clunn, John Patterson, John White, David Swain, William Crawford, Hugh Tomb, Joseph Vanzant, C C; Henry Tomlinson, H C.

1815, Sept. 8.—Archibald McElroy, C B; John White, 2d B; Joseph Clunn, William Crawford, John Patterson, John Bessonett, Benjamin Swain, Isaac Pitcher, C C; Abraham Hagerman, H C.

1816, Sept. 7.—Louis Bache, C B; Abraham Warner, 2d B; Benjamin Swain, Henry Disborough, Isaac Pitcher, Amos Gregg, John Bessonett, John Phillips, John Reed, C C; John H. Merrick, H C.

1817, *Same*, excepting Abraham Hagerman is H. C.

1818, Sept. 8.—Archibald McElroy, C. B; William Crawford, 2d B; Amos Gregg, Benjamin Swain, John Bessonett, John Reed, Ebenezer Stackhouse, David Swain, C C; Charles Snyder, H C.

1819, Sept. 8.—Archibald McElroy, C B; John White, 2d B; John G. Priestley, Isaac Pitcher, Samuel Levis, Henry Tomlinson, Ebenezer Stackhouse, John Bessonett, Lewis P. Kinsey, C C; John Johnson, H C.

1820, Sept. 8.—Archibald McElroy, C B; Henry Disborough, 2d B; Ebenezer Stackhouse, John Bessonett, John Kinsey, Isaac Pitcher, John White, Fincher Hellings, John Johnson, C C.; John T. Brown, H C.

1821, Sept. 8.—John Phillips, C B; Benjamin Swain, 2d B; John Reed, William Crawford, Ebenezer Stackhouse, John Hutchinson, Samuel Allen, Joseph Warner, L. P. Kinsey, C C; John T. Brown, H C.

1822, Sept. 7.—John Phillips, C B; Henry Disborough, 2d B; Benjamin Swain, Joseph Warner, Samuel Allen, David Dorrance, Wm. F. Swift, Ebenezer Stackhouse, William Crawford, C C; John T. Brown, H C.

1823, Sept. 8.—Joseph Warner, C B; Henry Disborough, 2d B; William Crawford, Ebenezer Stackhouse, John Hutchinson, Benjamin Swain, Samuel Allen, John Kinsey, Isaac Wilson, C C; John T. Brown, H C.

1824, Sept. 8.—David Dorrance, C B; Joseph M. Downing, 2d B; David Swain, James Johnson, Robert Cabeen, John Heiss, Wm. F. Swift, John White, C C; J. T. Brown, H C.

1825, Sept. 8.—Joseph Warner, C B; Joseph M. Downing, 2d B; Ebenezer Stackhouse, Benjamin Swain, Samuel Allen, Robert Cabeen, Wm. F. Swift, John Kinsey, John Bessonett, C C; William Gale, H C.

1826, Sept. 8.—Joseph Warner, C B; Joseph M. Downing, 2d B; Ebenezer Stackhouse, Benjamin Swain, Wm. F. Swift, Samuel Allen, Robert Cabeen, John Bessonett, John Kinsey, C C; John Johnson, H C.

1827, Sept. 8.—Joseph Warner, C B; Joseph M. Downing, 2d B; Robert Cabeen, Samuel Allen, Benjamin Swain, Wm. F. Swift, John Bessonett, John Kinsey, William Laing, C C; John Johnson, H C.

1828, Sept. 8.—Joseph M. Downing, C B; Benj. Swain, 2d B; Robert Cabeen, John Bessonett, Sam'l Allen, Wm. Laing, John Hutchinson, John Boyd, L. P. Kinsey, C C; John Johnson, H C.

1829, Sept. 8.—Joseph Warner, C B; Benj. Swain, 2d B; Sam'l Allen, Robert Cabeen, Wm. Laing, John Hutchinson, John Boyd, L. P. Kinsey, John Bessonett, C C; William Kinsey, H C.

1830, Sept. 8—Joseph Warner, C B; Jos. M. Downing, 2 B; John Bessonett, Samuel Allen, Robert Cabeen, Wm. Laing, Robert C. Beatty, Eleazer Fenton, L. P. Kinsey, C C; William Kinsey, H C.

1831, Sept. 8.—Joseph Warner, C B; James Johnson, 2d B; John Bessonett, Edward Swain, Robert Cabeen, William Hawk, Robert C. Beatty, Eleazer Fenton, L. P. Kinsey, C C; Wm. Kinsey, H C.

1832, Sept. 8.—Wm. F. Swift, C B; James Johnson, 2d B; Robert Cabeen, Wm. Hawk, H. N. Bostwick, Sam'l Allen, Edward Swain, James Harrison, John Bessonett, C C; Wm. Kinsey, H C.

1833, Sept. 18.—*Same.*

1834, Sept. 8.—Wm. F. Swift, C B; Jas. R. Scott, 2d B; Rob't Cabeen, John Bessonett, William Hawk, Samuel Allen, H. N. Bostwick, James Harrison, Edward Swain, C C; Wm. Kinsey, H C.

1835, Sept. 8.—Wm. Hawk, C. B; Jas. R. Scott, 2d B; Samuel Allen, H. N. Bostwick, Eleazer Fenton, James Harrison, Edward Swain, John Dorrance, William Kinsey, C C; Wm. Killingsworth, H C.

1836, Sept. 8.—William Kinsey, C B; Benj. Brown, 2d B; Sam'l Allen, James Harrison, Jonathan Adams, John Heiss, David Woodington, Gilbert Tomlinson, Robert Patterson, C C; Timothy Stackhouse, H C.

1837, Sept. 8.—William Kinsey, C B; Jos. B. Pennington, 2d B; Samuel Allen, James Brudon, David E. Woodington, Robert Patterson, Jos. F. Warner, William Killingsworth, Wm. F. Swift, C C; Lewis P. Kinsey, H C.

1838, Sept. 8.—William Hawk, C B; Jos. B. Pennington, 2d B; Chas. W. Peirce, Robert Cabeen, Gilbert Tomlinson, John W. Vandegrift, Samuel Allen, John Dorrance, Isaac W. Hall, C C; John Feaster, H C.

1839, Sept. 7.—William Hawk, C B; Benjamin Blinn, 2d B; Samuel Allen, John Dorrance, Robert Cabeen, James Irvine, James Johnson, John Johnson, James Brudon, C C; Robert Patterson, H C.

1840, Sept. 8.—Charles Banes, C B; Benjamin Blinn, 2d B; James Johnson, John Wright, John Johnson, James Brudon, James Irvine, William Kinsey, Charles Smith, C C; Robert Patterson, H C.

1841, Sept. 8.—Charles Banes, C B; Benj. Blinn, 2d B; James Johnson, James Brudon, James Irvine, John Wright, Wm. Kinsey, Andrew W. Gilkeson, James W. Weiss, C C; Robert Patterson, H C.

1842, Sept. 8.—William Kinsey, C B; Benj. Blinn, 2d B; Lewis P. Kinsey, Andrew W. Gilkeson, John Dorrance, Benj. Malone, H. N. Bostwick, Samuel Allen, James Brudon, C C; Robert Patterson, H C.

1843, Sept. 8.—William Kinsey, C B; Benj. Blinn, 2d B; Chester Sturdevant, Benjamin Ball, Andrew W. Gilkeson, Lewis P. Kinsey, James Brudon, Benjamin Malone, C C; Joseph R. Hellings, H C.

1844, Sept. 9.—William Kinsey, C B; Benj. Blinn, 2d B; James Johnson, Andrew W. Gilkeson, Robert Patterson, John Wright, John Stewart, John K. Holt, Augustus Gerrard, C C; Joseph R. Hellings, H C.

1845, Sept. 8.—James Brudon, C B; Benj. Blinn, 2d B; Lewis P. Kinsey, John Wright, John K. Holt, Andrew W. Gilkeson, Robert Patterson, Morton Righter, Jackson Gilkeson, C C; Charles Titus, H C.

1846, Sept. 8.—Benjamin Malone, C B; Augustus Gerrard, 2d B; Andrew W. Gilkeson, Wm. R. Phillips, Lewis P. Kinsey, Anthony Swain, Henry M. Wright, Jackson Gilheson, James Phillips, C C; Charles Titus, H C.

1847, Sept. 8.—Mahlon G. Hibbs, C B; Augustus Gerrard, 2d B; And. W. Gilkeson, Lewis P. Kinsey, John K. Holt, James Brudon, Joseph Wright, Jackson Gilkeson, Wm. Kinsey, C C; Lemuel Nelly, H C.

1848, Sept. 8.—William Hawk, C. B; Charles Thompson, 2d B; Anthony Swain, Samuel Allen, John Eastburn, Wm. H. White, Louis A. Hoguet, George C. Johnson, Alexander Morrison, C C; Lemuel Nelly, H C.

1849, Sept. 8.—Isaac Van Horn, C B; Robert Patterson, 2d B; James Brudon, And. W. Gilkeson, John Wright, John Davis, John K. Holt, Lewis P. Kinsey, William Earley, C C; Charles Titus, H C.

1850, Sept. 7.—Daniel P. Forst, C B; Wm. H. White, 2d B; John Dorrance, Wm. M. Downing, Wm. Killingsworth, John W. Bray, Robert Booz, James Rue, Albert L. Packer, C C; Chilion W. Higgs, H C.

1851, March 21.—(Elected under new Charter.)—Daniel P. Forst, Burgess; John Dorrance, John W. Bray, Wm. M. Downing, Robert Booz, Wm. Killingsworth, James Rue, A. L. Packer, Wm. H. White, L. A. Hoguet, Council; James Phillips, H C.

1852, March 19.—William Kinsey, B; William Bache, John W. Bray, Wm. M. Downing, Edmund Lawrence, James Rue, Daniel Street, Wm. H. White, Henry M. Wright, Joseph Wright, C; Giles S. Winder, H C.

1853, March 18.—William Kinsey, B; Valentine Booz, Jesse W. Knight, James W. Martin, Henry M. Wright, William Bache, Edmund Lawrence, Daniel Street, John S. Kinsey, John S. Brelsford, C; Giles S. Winder, H C.

SAINT JAMES' CHURCH.

OBTAINED, IN PART, FROM A SERMON BY THE RECTOR.*

The original part of the Episcopal Church edifice in Bristol was erected in 1712, by the townsmen and others of the neighborhood, and was dedicated to the honor of St. James the Greater, the 25th of July, being the festival of the Apostle. (Church Records.) Some of the materials, including most of the brick, used in building this Church, were shipped from England.

This Church edifice is mentioned in the original charter act incorporating the town of Bristol, which the reader will see in a note on page 17 of this work. The land for erecting the Church and for the burial ground was donated by ANTHONY BURTON, a gentleman of much note and usefulness in those early times, and one of the three first projectors of the town.

For a period of years the ministry of this Church was sustained by the ancient British Propagation Society; however, for a long time, its ministrations appear to have been quite abandoned; and during the revolutionary war it had become so neglected and dilapidated, that it was used as a stabling by the troops who were posted here. After the peace, this ancient structure was thoroughly renovated and enlarged; and its ministrations were now regularly resumed. From the period of its dedication it has had fourteen stationed ministers; the present Rector, the Rev. WM. S. PERKINS, having been called to the pulpit in the year 1834.

The pews have the old-fashioned high backs; and the whole interior of the Church still retains most of its original appearance. This venerable edifice will seat about 350 persons.

* On the 22d of June, 1851, the Rev. W. S. PERKINS, Rector of St. James' Church at Bristol, preached in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of "the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," which sermon contained a brief history of the Church. At the request of members the sermon was published in pamphlet form; and it is now the source from which the material facts in our sketch of the Church are obtained.

There is an excellent and well-toned organ placed in a small gallery, used by the choir; which gallery is also used for the infant Sunday-school class.

On the grounds is erected a frame building, used as a lecture and Sunday-school room.

In its ancient and now beautiful burial ground, trees have been planted, and family burial lots secured and enclosed. In it are still to be found in tolerable preservation, tombstones bearing as old, if not older, dates than any other burial place in Pennsylvania. Considerable regard has been paid to keeping many of the graves in good order, while not a few of the tombs are quite ornamental. Among the more ancient stones now traceable, is that of the Sugar family, which bears the coat of arms of a Carpenters' Society, chiseled on the top of the stone, consisting in part of a compass and square, and other devices which time has so far obliterated as to be no longer legible. This stone records the death of its tenant "August ye 16th, 1734."

As the name of De Normandie occurs frequently in this book, we give the following inscriptions, copied from several stones in this ancient yard:

"Andrew Denormandye dyed ye 10th of Dec. 1724, aged 73 years."—"Sarah Denormandye, dyed July 6, 1723, aged 38."—"Andrew Denormandie died May 8, 1726, aged 3 months."—"John Anthony Denormandie died June 3, 1748, aged 52 years." "John Abraham De Normandie died Nov. 16, 1748, aged 57 years." ———"Gaudorett, dyed ye 8th of June, 1725, aged 61 years."

The whole value of the church property may be estimated at about $7,000.

FRIENDS' MEETING-HOUSE.

In consequence of the ancient records of the Friends' Meeting being uncollected and entrusted into several hands, (none of them being deposited with the members residing in the borough,) the compiler has used considerable exertion to procure full and accurate statistics of its history; and so far as his object has been accomplished, he is altogether indebted to Dr. E. D. Buckman for the collections of its data which here follow:

"In 1704-5 Samuel Carpenter proposes to give a piece of ground for a Meeting-house, burying-place, and for pasture, in Bristol, to Friends; which was kindly accepted, and a deed of trust executed to Joseph Kirkbride, Tobias Dimmock, Thomas Watson, William Beaks, Edward Mays, and William Croasdale, for the said uses.—Deed dated June 12th, 1711. The deed of trust provides that the property shall be for the benefit of the poor people of Bristol belonging to said Meeting, &c.—for a place to erect and continue a Meeting, and to bury their dead, &c.—(See Records at Wrightstown and at Doylestown.)

"The lot on which the Meeting-house is erected, (south-east corner of Market and Wood streets,) was extended by purchase from Dr. Henry Disborough, in 1814, for 207 dollars. Another lot, at the north-west corner of Cedar and Walnut streets, was deeded by John Pemberton and wife to the Society in 1793, for educational purposes.

"In 1707 Bristol Friends desire to have a meeting there once in two weeks, on First-days and on week-days; and in 1710 they remove their meeting from Ann May's house to the Widow Baker's. In 1713 they want £40 to finish their Meeting-house:—£24 were assessed upon Falls, and £16 upon Middletown.

"In 1714 the Meeting was opened for worship on every First day. In 1728 the Meeting-house being in some danger of falling, it was repaired: the blacksmith's bill 3*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*—(See Meeting Records at Wrightstown.)"

The second story of this old house of worship was formerly used for educational purposes, and several of our townsmen of

the present day were school-fellows with the compiler of this History of Bristol, in 1821-25, in its rooms. These upper rooms have not been applied to any particular use for some years. The old original heavy wooden banister work, benches, &c. still remain unaltered in the upper story. This ancient Meeting-house is also noticed in the original town charter; and the brick and a large proportion of other material used in its construction was also obtained from England.

After the separation of Friends' Society in 1828, a small frame building was erected on the north-west corner of Wood and Mulberry streets, since known and used as the Orthodox Friends' Meeting-house.

METHODIST-EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

CONTRIBUTED BY WM. KINSEY, ESQ.

The original M. E. Church at Bristol was built in the year 1804: enlarged in 1827, and rebuilt in 1844. The first Methodist preacher who visited Bristol for the holding of public worship, was an officer in the British army before the revolutionary war, Capt. WEBB, who was a licensed preacher in the M. E. Church. His regiment being encamped at Trenton, N. J., he visited Bristol, and preached to a large collection of people under a chestnut tree, on the ground where the present Church stands. In 1790 regular circuit preaching was established by the Philadelphia Conference, the preachers and people occupying the old Court-house.

In 1794, through the exertions of MARY CONNOR, one of the first converts to Methodism, money was raised by subscription, and the present Church lot, (about half an acre of ground, on Wood street, between Mulberry and Walnut,) was purchased; and in 1804, (the society having increased,) through her continued efforts, a small brick Church, 20 by 40 feet, one story high,

was built, in which there was regular preaching once in two weeks, at nights, by the circuit preachers. The Church was occupied by other denominations on various occasions: the celebrated Quaker preacher, JOHN JOSEPH GURNEY, and the eccentric LORENZO DOW, with many other eminent divines, occupied the pulpit.

In 1827, under the ministrations of the Rev. H. G. KING and R. LUTTON, the society greatly increased, and the Church was enlarged. And in 1844, the society again finding their church too small for the accommodation of the members and the large congregation that assembled there, commenced to build the present beautiful and commodious brick edifice, 45 by 60 feet, two stories high, with lecture room and class rooms on the basement floor, and preaching room with a gallery over the stairs and vestibule, on the upper floor.

In 1852, under the ministrations of the Rev. WM. MCCOMBS, a beautiful brick parsonage, 22 by 30 feet, with back buildings, was erected, and furnished with suitable furniture, the whole at a cost of $3,000.

The Church property, (including the parsonage building,) is valued at $8,000, and is free from embarrassment. The society numbers three hundred members, and has a flourishing Sabbath-school of 250 scholars. There is regular service during the Sabbath and through the week, by the pastor, Rev. M. H. SISTY, who is stationed by the Philadelphia Conference.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

CONTRIBUTED BY THE PASTOR.

The first movement to erect a place of worship for the Presbyterians in Bristol was made by the Rev. JAMES M. HARLOW, in the Spring of 1844. In two years after, the Church was organized with eleven members, and placed under care of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia. For a while they worshiped in the frame building beside the railroad depot, nearly opposite the market-house.

Their present place of worship, in Radcliffe street above Market, was finished, through the exertions of Mr. HARLOW, in 1846. The Church is a brick structure; with a gallery over the vestibule and stairs for the choir; and a basement story divided into two apartments: one occupied as a lecture and Sabbath-school room, and the other at present occupied as a female seminary, under the charge of Miss E. D. WARD, a graduate of Mount Holyoke, Mass. The church will seat about 450 persons.

The Rev. J. M. HARLOW preached for them till 1850, as stated supply. The Rev. F. D. HARRIS was called, and installed the first Pastor of the Church on the evening of the 8th of May, 1851. The Church feels greatly encouraged by the success which has thus far crowned their efforts; they have a comfortable house of worship.

CHURCH OF SAINT MARK.

NOTES TAKEN AT A PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH THE RECTOR.

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mark was built, under the pastoral charge and supervision of the Rev. JOHN MACKIN, (now of Trenton, N. J.,) in the year 1845, at a cost of about $2500. It is situated on the northerly side of Radcliffe street, near Adams' Hollow bridge. This Church will seat about 260 persons; and its regular ministrations are well attended. This edifice, which is built of stone, is at present not sufficiently large conveniently to accommodate all its attendants with comfortable sittings; and it is contemplated either to enlarge the Church or erect a new one.

The Church is under the pastoral charge of the Rev. JOHN C. FLANNAGAN. It has a large and well attended Sunday School, averaging from 100 to 150 attendants.

There is a well built and commodious brick parsonage erected on the Church lot, and also a burial ground attached and enclosed within the premises. The whole of the Church property is valued at from four to five thousand dollars.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

OBTAINED, IN PART, FROM THEIR CHURCH MEMBERS' BOOK.

The members of this interest, (originally consisting of fifteen in good standing from sister Churches,) after holding several preparatory meetings, again convened on the 29th of September, 1848, and were then in Council of Ministers, regularly constituted the First Baptist Church of Bristol Borough. Their charter of incorporation was granted on the application of members, by the proper Court of Bucks county, on the 3d of May, 1850. On the 2d of February of the same year, by a resolution in Church meeting, the Rev. CHRISTIAN J. PAGE was called to the pastoral care and oversight of the Church.

The members soon had increased to nearly one hundred in number, and for some time held statedly divine worship in the lecture room of the Washington Hall.

Having sold their building lot on Otter street, and secured a suitable piece of ground on the south-east corner of Walnut and Cedar streets, for building a Church, contracts were entered into with mechanics: and on the 18th of June, 1851, the work had so far progressed as to admit of the laying of the corner stone of a handsome church edifice, composed of brown sandstone, laid in square blocks, hammer-dressed and pointed. The proportions are—main room, 43 by 70 feet; above the vestibule is a projecting tower of 7 feet, having 5 feet recess. Basement story has three rooms: a lecture room, 41 by 38 feet, which will seat about 300 persons; and two committee rooms, one of which is now used for school purposes, and the other for the meetings of the Trustees. The main audience chamber will seat about 450 persons; has 82 pews on the main floor: with a gallery which will seat an additional 100 persons.

The whole property is estimated to be worth about eight thousand dollars.

BRISTOL LODGE, NO. 25, ANCIENT YORK MASONS.

CONTRIBUTED BY MAJOR D. M. KEIM, SECRETARY.

The limits prescribed for this work necessarily induces the writer of this narrative, to abridge much of the information he has obtained respecting the rise and progress of this "time-honored" institution among us.

The original Warrant, dated March 15, 1780, was granted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, under the masonic administration of the

R. W. WILLIAM BALL, as Grand Master;
" WILLIAM SHUTE, Deputy Grand Master;
" ALEXANDER RUTHERFORD, Sen. G. Warden;
" JACOB HOWELL, Junior Grand Warden;—

authorizing and appointing Brs. JOHN CLARK, W. M.; SAMUEL BENEZET, S. W.; and Dr. WILLIAM McILVAINE, J. W., "to hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons at the town of Bristol, in the State of Pennsylvania, or any where within five miles of the said town—No. 25."—In connexion with the Brethren thus officially designated, Brs. TYRRINGHAM PALMER, JACOB SHALLUS, and PATRICK GRIFFIN, as the constitutional number of members requisite, had united in the petition to the Grand Lodge, and obtained the warrant.

Under these auspices the labours of the Lodge were commenced and conducted with energetic zeal, securing the most prosperous and satisfactory results. Every profession or occupation soon were enrolled among its members; and at that eventful period in the annals of our country, it is gratifying to find the "McIlvaines, Bloomfield, Willett, Bessonet, Rodman, Wilkinson, John Fitch," and similar illustrious personages, assembling around its simple altar.—JOHN FITCH then resided near the Neshaminy creek, and was engaged upon those experiments since so wonderfully developed, of propelling boats by the power of steam.—His membership dates January 4, 1785.

On June 4, 1786, the propriety of continuing under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England engaged the consideration of the Order generally: when Bristol Lodge unanimously selected their worthy Br. JOHN CLARK to represent them in the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, to be holden in Philadelphia September 26, 1786, with especial instructions upon the subject. Thirteen of the Colonial Lodges were then and there assembled; and, after mature and serious deliberation, unanimously resolved, "That it is improper the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania should remain any longer under the authority of any foreign Grand Lodge."—Thus was originated the present Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Provincial Warrant of Bristol Lodge was then surrendered, and the present Warrant obtained, dated the 9th day of July, 1789, under the administration of the

R. W. J. B. SMITH, as Grand Master;
" GEORGE ORD, Deputy Grand Master;
" JOSEPH DEAN, Senior Grand Warden;
" JOSEPH FEW, Junior Grand Warden;—

renewing in perpetuity all the original rights and privileges pertaining to the Lodge, through Brs. WILLIAM MCILVAINE, as W. M.; SAMUEL BENEZET, S. W., and JOHN CLARK, J. W.

From this period to the close of the war of 1812, a largely increased accession of members was made to the Lodge, and its unobtrusive but ennobling influences were every where exercised and felt.

Don Louis de Onis, then Minister Plenipotentiary from H. C. M. of Spain, became a member July 22, 1814.

During the year 1815, the brethren resolved upon the erection of a Masonic Hall, and procured a spacious lot, on Cedar street, for the purpose. Through the zealous cooperation of the brethren the necessary funds and materials were speedily obtained, and a Hall erected for masonic uses only. It was built of stone, two and a-half stories in height, and 36 by 20 feet in its breadth and depth, (ground dimensions.) Its facade, though simple, was imposing;—the main entrance being approached by a flight of steps, overshadowed, (as many of your readers will recollect,) by an

ancient trailing rose, that in the season of bloom was most gorgeous and attractive.

The Lodge was consecrated November 18, 1815, with full masonic observances, and the attendance of brethren from all parts of the country.

With slight interruptions, the Lodge has continued its operations to the present period, with unalloyed success.

The primitive Hall was found much too limited for the assemblages of the brethren; who, after a careful consideration of the subject, resolved, "that it is expedient to erect a new Hall, embracing in capacity, ventilation, and adaptation, the increased requirements of the craft."

The site of the old Hall was selected as that for the erection of the new; and during the Summer of 1853, the former was taken down, and the present elegant superstructure reared upon its foundation. It is built of brick; to be stuccoed in imitation of stone; and in dimensions is 36 by 56 feet, and two stories in height. Its style of architecture is the pointed, or Gothic; and for beauty of design, or classical taste, it claims a prominent place among the public buildings of this ancient borough.

The Building Committee have been unwearied in their superintendence; and the best materials have been employed in its erection—no expense or labour having been stinted, that would render it in every respect an appropriate Temple for the observances of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Its completion, in a short time, will no doubt render it a vast auxiliary to the extension of the charitable influences and tenets of this Universal Order.

The Building Committee consist of, Brs. Allan Downing, William Kinsey, Andrew W. Gilkeson, John Dorrance, J. H. Schenck, M. D., ex-officio as Trustees, and Brs. L. H. Scott, Pugh Dungan, and James W. Martin.

The number of members, in active communion with the Lodge, is, at present, fifty-three.

WASHINGTON HALL.

FROM NOTES FURNISHED BY A. W. GILKESON, ESQ.

This three storied brick edifice, situated at the westerly corner of Radcliffe and Walnut streets, was erected by a subscription stock company, expressly with the laudable design of supplying that much wanted desideratum—a Public Hall adapted to the general convenience of the people, and for the accommodation of the several popular societies of the day, which had sprung into existence among the citizens of Bristol and vicinity.

"The first meeting which was held for the purpose of building this Hall, convened June 17, 1846; and it was then proposed to confine the subscriptions to the building among the Odd Fellows, (Hopkins Lodge, No. 87,) for whose accommodation it was in the outset originally designed. But after consideration among the members, and consultation with the citizens, the proposition was modified to allow any one to buy shares from the original projectors and stockholders, provided the same was first offered to Hopkins Lodge, and declined, as it now stands.

"August 16, 1847, the building was commenced," and now accommodates several societies and organizations particularly mentioned on page 27 of this work; and also the "Franklin Building Association," since instituted, (November 7, 1853.)

"April 7, 1848, the charter was granted, under which Trustees were elected, and have since been annually chosen."

The lower story, or Lecture Room, is transiently rented for all purposes of public interest or pastime.

THE "BRISTOL TOWNSHIP BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY" was instituted March 8, 1852; "for the purpose of supplying the Borough and its neighborhood, and as soon as possible the Township, and the *sailors and boatmen* frequenting the waters of Bristol, with Bibles and Tracts; and every *child*, who can read, with a Testament."—President, JOHN MAGOFFIN; Secretary, D. P. FORST; Treasurer, THOMAS CALLANAN.

FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL.

FROM NOTES TAKEN BY DR. E. D. BUCKMAN, SECRETARY.

The present Public School-House was built in 1837, at an expense of $4,936 85. About $1100 were afterwards expended in finishing the basement, supplying furniture, stoves, &c., and grading the grounds: making the cost of that property about $6,000. It is divided into male and female departments, with a primary school in the basement. The male department was put in charge of James Anderson, at a salary of $650 a year, and the school was opened on the 15th of December, 1837. He remained in charge until March 1, 1840, when the schools were closed for want of funds. The school was reopened in May, and N. F. De Brown was chosen Teacher at $500 a year. July 30, 1841, J. V. Buckman was selected to take charge of the school, which situation he still retains.

In August, 1851, Miss S. J. Thompson was selected to assist him. She retained her situation until February, 1852, when she resigned, and Miss Elizabeth Burrows was elected to the vacancy. Miss Burrows was, in April, 1853, promoted to the situation of Principal of the Female Department, and Miss Sarah T. Brown elected to the vacancy, which situation she still holds.

The Female Department was organized in Dec'r, 1837, and placed in charge of Annah N. Smith, who retained her situation at a salary of $300 a year, until Nov'r, 1838, when she resigned, and Fidelia Smith was elected; which situation she held until March, 1839, when the schools were closed for want of funds. On the re-opening of the school, (in May following,) it was placed under the charge of Harriet Schneider, at a salary of $250 a year. She resigned her situation in July, 1840, and Alice Frame was employed as her successor. Alice resigned her situation in April, 1841, and Miss Mahitable P. Moody succeeded her for a short time, when she was succeeded by Sarah Pearson, who was employed in January, 1843. Miss Pearson resigned in October, 1845, and Miss Huldah Hoag was elected to the vacancy. In May, 1848, Miss Sarah Warner was elected to the vacancy oc-

casioned by the resignation of Miss Hoag. Miss Warner resigned in 1851, and Miss M. L. Ernest was employed as Principal, and Miss Matilda Goodwin as her assistant, at $15 per month. Miss Goodwin resigned in 1852, and Miss Anna V. Thompson succeeded her. In April, 1853, the Principal (Mrs. Lawrence,) resigned her situation, and Miss E. Burrows succeeded her. Miss Thompson resigned immediately afterwards, and Miss Anne Davis was elected to the vacancy: which situations are retained by them at the present time.

The Primary School was first organized in November, 1839, under the management of Miss Nancy Cummings, at a salary of $250 a year. It was closed the March following for want of funds, and opened again in May, under the control of Miss Adeline Cummings, at $22 a month, (220 a year.) In October of the same year she resigned, and Melissa Young was employed. In Sept'r, 1841, Miss Young resigned, and Mrs. Sarah Swift was employed at $200 a year. In August, 1842, Miss S. Townsend was employed to assist her, at fifty dollars a year. In May, 1843, Mrs. Swift and Miss Hastings were jointly employed at fifteen dollars a month each. In December Miss Hastings was made Principal of the school; which situation she resigned in December, 1844, and Miss Roxanna Leonard succeeded her at sixteen dollars a month. Miss Leonard resigned in October, 1845, and Mrs. Swift was made Principal of the school, and her daughter Matilda the Assistant, at a joint salary of $240 a year, which was afterwards increased to $270, and subsequently to $300. The school still continues under their management.

Directorship.—In 1837, Gilbert Tomlinson, David E. Woodington, James Johnson, James Harrison, Jonathan Adams, and William Kinsey were Directors.

It had been agreed by vote of the citizens that $3,000 should be raised by tax for building the school; but Borough Council borrowed that sum and donated it to the school; and they afterwards appropriated $1,936 85, out of a Borough loan, in the same manner. The Borough also leased to the Board of Directors for 99 years, the lot, 59 by 110 feet, on which the house is erected, (at the north-east corner of Wood and Mulberry streets, where

the old Lock-up formerly stood.)' They afterwards donated the balance of the square to the use of the Public Schools.

The expense of building the house, &c., was $4,936 85.—Tax levied for 1837, 848 88 dollars. The school was opened the 15th of December; and in March, 1838, J. V. Buckman and James Brudon were elected Directors.—Tax levied 682 dollars; State appropriation, 170 dollars. In June J. Adams resigned, and C. W. Peirce was elected to fill the vacancy. In May, 1839, James Johnson, James Harrison, and C. Sturdevant were elected Directors.—Tax levied, 811 dollars; State appropriation, 170 dollars. It was found that there had been informality in the time of electing Directors, and in consequence of which, they all resigned, and the following were elected: Wm. Kinsey, C. Sturdevant, for one year; J. V. Buckman, Jas. Brudon, for two years; Charles Banes, James Harrison, for three years. In this year the basement story was finished as a school room. The financial affairs became so much embarrassed that in March, 1840, the schools were closed until enabled to resume, upon the collection of the taxes. The taxes levied for that year amounted to 879 dollars, and the State appropriation 305 dollars. In September, 1840, Wm. Kinsey and A. W. Gilkeson were elected Directors. The tax for 1841 was 918 dollars. In 1842, 1070 dollars,—E. B. Dodson and Jonathan Milnor elected Directors. 1843, tax 861; State appropriation 403 dollars.—C. Banes and C. W. Peirce elected Directors. Mr. Dodson resigned, and David Trump succeeded him; he left the town, and Dr. B. Malone was his successor. 1844, tax 1100 dollars; State appropriation, 231 dollars.—Wm. Kinsey and A. W. Gilkeson elected. 1845, tax 900 dollars; Pugh Dungan and Dr. A. Guerard elected. C. Banes resigned and Dr. B. Malone elected. 1846, tax 1200 dollars; State appropriation, 220 dollars.—A. W. Gilkeson, Wm. Kinsey and J. W. Stackhouse elected.—Pugh Dungan resigned, and C. W. Peirce elected. 1847, tax 900 dollars; State appropriation 200 dollars;—L. T. Pratt and J. Stackhouse elected. 1848, tax 1,000 dollars; State 200 dollars;—Joshua Fell and Thomas Scott elected. 1849, tax 1,000 dollars; State 200 dollars;—Joshua Fell and J. Stackhouse moved away, and H. N. Bostwick and Isaac Van Horn elected. 1850, tax 1200 dollars;

State 200 dollars;—Wm. Kinsey and A. W. Gilkeson elected for three years; J. D. Mendenhall for two years, and L. P. Kinsey for one year. 1851, tax 1500 dollars; State 200;—Dr. E. D. Buckman and L. M. Wharton elected. 1852, tax 1990 dollars; State 200;—D. P. Forst and Thos. Callanan elected Directors. 1853: J. D. Mendenhall and F. W. Swan elected Directors.

PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 2.—The present school-house being found inadequate to accommodate the children of the town, measures were taken in 1852 to provide for building another. A lot known as the "Baptist lot" was purchased at a cost of $400.

In the Summer of 1853 it was fully determined to commence the building of School House, No. 2; to meet the expense of which an Act of Assembly was obtained allowing Directors to borrow 3,000 dollars, and to create a sinking fund for the extinguishment of the debt within fifteen years.—A tax of 2800 dollars was also levied for the purpose of paying balance of claims due and for the current expenses of the school year.

School House No. 2 is a handsome Gothic structure, of light sandstone, built in broken range work, and pointed in white;—finished with a cupola;—in all, constituting one of the handsomest public buildings in the town. It contains all the modern improvements for ventilation and heating. Its dimensions are 53 by 35 feet: two stories high. The interior arrangement is, for a school-room, 32 by 36 feet, and a class-room 13 by 18 feet, in each story; also two entrances and stairways, as a means of egress in case of accident, such as has occurred at various times in Philadelphia and New York. The contract price is $4400; Edmund Lawrence contracting for the whole building, with Valentine Booz, a sub-contractor for doing the stone-work.

This School House is now (Nov. '53,) nearly completed, and is expected to be entirely so about the middle of Dec. next.

THE END.

MAR 12 1910